

France to send forces to Rwanda border

PARIS (R) — France has decided to send forces to the Rwandan border ahead of an operation to halt massacres in the Central African country, a government spokesman said on Saturday. But the spokesman said the operation would only begin once approved by the United Nations. He did not specify which country the forces would go to but French media have spoken of Zaire or Uganda as possible jump-off points. A statement from the presidency and prime minister's office said the French forces would act with those of unidentified African countries and of Western states which wanted to join. A spokesman for Prime Minister Edouard Balladur told reporters U.N. clearance was a pre-condition for the operation "and you should not expect plane loads of paratroops to start taking off until we have it." France has decided to send the necessary means to the borders of Rwanda. These forces, together with those of African states and of western countries joining the operation, will carry out their mission until the U.N. assistance mission for Rwanda (UNAMIR) is in a position to carry out the mandate given it by the U.N. Security Council, an official statement said.

Jordan Times

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Iraq: Turkey loser in its stance

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq said on Saturday Turkey would lose out financially if it adhered to United Nations trade sanctions on Baghdad. The official Al Qadisiyah newspaper said Turkey's compliance with Western allies in keeping the embargo on Iraq unchanged would backfire, threatening Ankara's national security. "Turkey lost... and will continue losing a great deal," the paper said in a front-page editorial. But it said the gravest danger to Turkey came from the presence of allied forces in its territory. "What cannot be compensated or valued with dollars... is the serious threats posed by America to Turkey's national security and territorial integrity," Al Qadisiyah said. Al Qadisiyah said Iraq's stand towards its ethnic Kurdish minority was clear. It said it reached agreement with rebel leaders in 1992 offering a greater degree of autonomy, but the Kurds, under pressure from Washington, refused to sign. On Wednesday, Turkey urged rival Kurdish leaders to resume dialogue with Baghdad on the future of the Kurdish controlled enclave in northern Iraq.

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Sanaa toughens stand as hopes of Cairo talks fade

Combined agency dispatches

NORTHERN FORCES kept up a barrage of Aden on Saturday and planned U.N. peace talks between Yemen's civil war foes fell through, dashing hopes of imminent truce.

An official statement in Aden said 20 people were killed and scores wounded in shelling of three residential areas, raising the toll in three days of artillery bombardment to 80 people.

Northern forces were said to be mobilising at fronts and bringing reinforcements from Sanaa to attack Aden.

Residents said the bombardment eased off in the afternoon and long queues formed at bakeries in the city where people are not venturing out after dark for fear of northern shelling.

Conditions set by rival northern and southern officials appeared to have led to the collapse of a meeting in Cairo on Sunday called for by U.N. envoy Lakhdar Brahimi to help bring about a lasting ceasefire in the war which broke out on May 4.

Aden, facing food, water and power shortages, has been target of intense northern shelling for three days prompting the breakaway state to decide to send its prime minister and foreign minister to the U.N. to call for an emergency Security Council meeting to discuss the plight of the city.

The northern government said it was holding off a final assault on Aden by its forces, battling southern defenders in an arc around the city, but would not wait much longer unless southern leaders gave

up their bid for a separate state.

An official statement broadcast on Sanaa Radio said that if its conditions were not met the government would "shoulder its duty to the nation and put an end to the rebellion."

It gave no deadline. Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa said in Cairo flatly that representatives of the warring Yemeni forces would not meet in Cairo on Sunday, despite earlier hopes for such talks.

"There will be no meeting of Yemeni factions," Mr. Musa told reporters after he attended a meeting between Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and Mr. Ibrahim. Mr. Ibrahim, asked to comment on Mr. Musa's remark, said: "Yes, I think he's right but I haven't got a formal answer yet."

On arrival in Cairo on late Friday Mr. Ibrahim said southern Yemeni leaders had agreed to a meeting with northern officials in Cairo to discuss a lasting ceasefire.

Southern Yemen then said it would not attend until the north stopped shelling Aden.

Mr. Ibrahim said he was waiting for the northerners to say if they would come to such a meeting, which could pave the way for a ceasefire monitoring commission including representatives of Arab and other foreign countries.

A southern Yemeni officer was quoted as saying on Saturday that southern troops had routed a northern force advancing on the key port of Mukalla.

"This (advance) was one of several pockets of northern

troops that tried to reach this area but were chased away and finished off," Ahmad Farid Al Sarima, commander of southern troops in Shabwa province, was quoted by the United Arab Emirates' Al Itihad newspaper as saying.

The newspaper said Col. onel Sarima, speaking by telephone, was commenting on reports that northern troops who advanced south-east through Shabwa early in the six-week-old war had come close to Mukalla, a key southern base close to major oilfields.

Col. Sarima said his troops, including over 12,000 armed tribesmen, had regained ground and some of them were within 12 kilometres of Ataq, the capital of Shabwa which fell to the northerners earlier in the conflict.

It was not immediately possible to get independent confirmation of Col. Sarima's account.

Mukalla, 620 kilometres by road east of Aden, is the base of Ali Salem Al Beidh, leader of the southern Yemeni state that broke away from a four-year union with the north on May 21.

A key entry point for supplies to the south, Mukalla is close to the oil region of Masila, which has been producing nearly half of total Yemeni crude oil output despite the war.

Northern forces hold most of the country after fighting that is believed to have killed thousands. Northern forces encircled Aden early in the conflict.

In their hard-line statement, broadcast on Sanaa Radio, northern leaders said

they would delay storming Aden only if an appropriate "political solution" were found.

They said the solution should be based on ending the southern "rebellion," holding a dialogue "within the framework of the Republic of Yemen" — a reference to the united republic — and "stopping interference in internal Yemeni affairs."

The north repeatedly has accused neighbouring Saudi Arabia of helping the south with money and weapons. There has been no international recognition of the rump southern state, but it is believed to have the support of Saudi Arabia and several Gulf Arab states.

The government in Sanaa made several ceasefire offers last week. They all collapsed within hours, with both sides accusing the other of firing first.

War between north and south broke out on May 4 after a long feud between leaders and parties from the two sides over the balance of power within the single Yemeni state.

The Sanaa government views southern leaders as traitors. The southerners accuse northerners trying to dominate them and announced on May 21 that they were taking the south out of the union.

Southern leaders said Saturday the defenders of Aden — who include civilians, men and women, issued with guns by the authorities — had repulsed four northern attacks on Friday. They also said the northerners were planning a massive assault on Aden.

King begins formal talks in U.S.

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein opens talks in Washington today with American officials on bilateral relations, the Middle East peace process and regional and international issues, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported.

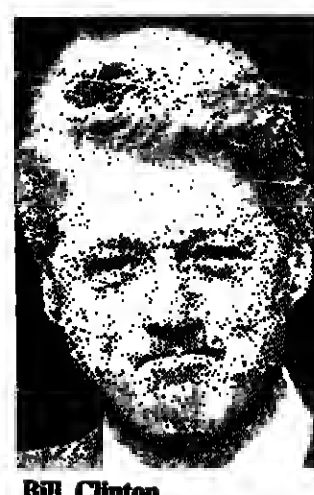
King Hussein is expected to hold a meeting with U.S. President Bill Clinton at the White House on Wednesday in the presence of an official Jordanian delegation and senior American administration officials, Petra said.

Petra said that the King was to hold a closed door session with President Clinton to be followed by an official luncheon hosted in honour of King Hussein and the Jordanian delegation.

Before the meetings at the White House, King Hussein



was expected to meet U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher and Defence Secretary William Perry as well as a number of congress-



men. Petra said that King Hussein will hold a press conference on Tuesday to discuss his visit.

Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor arrived in Washington Tuesday.

The King and Queen arrived from Rochester, Minnesota, where the King underwent post-operative medical check-ups, which, his physician said, found that he had been completely cured of the cancer which he was operated for two years ago.

The White House meeting between the King and President Clinton will focus on the recent progress made in the Jordanian-Israeli track of talks when Israel agreed to the Kingdom's long-standing demand for negotiations on border demarcation and water rights. The two sides will launch the negotiations next month. The talks will include security issues and economic cooperation.

World Bank affirms commitment to help Jordan address economic woes

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The World Bank on Saturday reiterated its commitment to helping Jordan overcome its economic woes and carry out fundamental reforms in some of the Kingdom's efforts to achieve self-reliance.

In a gathering marking to the 50th anniversary of the World Bank, Ram Chopra, head of the international body's Al Mashreq division, said Jordan had defied expectations when it bounced back in 1992 to register an impressive 11 per cent economic growth after suffering a severe blow from the Gulf crisis.

Describing the overall performance of the Jordanian economy and the utilisation of the Kingdom's resources since 1960 as dramatic, Mr. Chopra said Jordan's problems mainly emanated "from a series of shocks that were imposed on it by regional and international developments."

Earlier in the gathering, Minister of Planning Hisham Al Khatib paid tribute to Jordanian-World Bank relations as "one of the most

successful relationships which the bank developed with developing countries over its fifty years of existence."

Dr. Khatib said World Bank loans through the International Development Agency (IDA) since the 60s amounted to \$1.2 billion. "There is hardly any sector in the Jordanian economy in which the bank was not involved directly by offering credit and loans or indirectly through advice and studies," he said.

However, Jordan had not been fully able to absorb World Bank recommendations into its economy, Dr. Khatib said in an indirect reference to World Bank suggestions that included revisions of the pricing policies of the state-run water and energy enterprises among other reforms.

"The bank has always tried to convince us to accept conditions and covenants which it felt are in the best interest of Jordan," he said. "Usually they were, but not always... Jordan, not in a few instances, resisted some of the bank conditions, not because they were not rational, but because they are not always in the best interest of political

and social considerations of the country."

Arguing that "academic analysis and free market strategies" cannot be applied across the board to all countries, Dr. Khatib said, "In many instances we claimed that although we do not disagree with the economic wisdom, we know our social interests better."

It was the first time that a senior Jordanian official publicly acknowledged lingering differences with the World Bank, which is supervising the Kingdom's economic restructuring programme prescribed by the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

However, such differences have not cast a cloud over the Kingdom's relations with the World Bank, which "can look at Jordan as one of its success stories," Dr. Khatib said.

Dr. Khatib also deviated from the prepared text of his speech to raise a point that Jordan would have been better able to manage its 1988 economic crisis had the World Bank, which was closely involved in development projects in the country, raised an alarm in time over the course of the Kingdom's

indicators.

Mr. Chopra agreed with Dr. Khatib's observations on the remarkable progress Jordan had achieved in its health and education sectors since the 60s. In an apparent reference to the minister's comment on the 1988 crisis, the World Bank official said: "Instead of finding faults of the past, we look forward to what we can do together."

In this context, he noted, the World Bank had been the driving force behind international aid to Jordan to plug the Kingdom's financing gaps and the bank was hopeful that it would be able to repeat the same in 1995 and 1996.

He said it was difficult to project long-term indica-

(Continued on page 12)



Switzerland's Alain Sutter (right) outruns U.S. defender Thomas Dooley during their World Cup match in the Pontiac Silverdome Saturday (AFP photo)

Americans squeeze 1-1 draw with Swiss

PONTIAC, Michigan (R) — U.S. forward Eric Wynalda thrilled American fans on Saturday by scoring from a superb free-kick to give his side a richly-deserved 1-1 draw with Switzerland in a historic

first indoor World Cup match.

The Swiss had taken the lead in the 39th minute of the Group A encounter with another great free-kick. Georges Bregy curled the ball over the wall and

U.S. goalkeeper Tony Meola from the edge of the area after Alain Sutter had been fouled.

Switzerland wasted a glorious chance to win in the 83rd minute when midfielder Christophe Ohrel side-

footed wide from eight metres out with the goal at his mercy.

Some 77,000 fans, most backing the U.S. underdogs, packed the Silverdome for the first indoor game of the tournament.

Arafat says he will not move without money

TUNIS (AP) — Yasser Arafat has reiterated in meetings with U.S. and European ambassadors that he will not move to Jericho until he has secured \$42 million pledged by donor nations to help set up a Palestinian self-government.

Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) sources and Western diplomats said Mr. Arafat met Friday night with U.S. Ambassador John MacCarthy to explain his stand. On Saturday, he summoned the French, Greek and Belgian ambassadors to separate meetings for the same purpose.

"I simply cannot move before I have the money, which is vital for the (Palestinian)

authority to function," one of the diplomats quoted the PLO chairman as telling Mr. MacCarthy. He and others spoke on condition of anonymity.

The PLO official news agency Wafa reported the meetings at the PLO chairman's headquarters. It also said that Mr. Arafat stressed to the envoys the need to have money in hand before moving to self-government.

On June 10, international donors promised an immediate \$42 million to finance the move and pay salaries until August.

But the World Bank, which is supervising the disbursement of \$2.2 billion to be given to the Palestinians over

five years, remains hesitant to release any money without a report budget from Mr. Arafat spelling out how he will spend it.

A World Bank delegation left Tunis Friday after failing to reach agreement with Mr. Arafat on the "process of accountability," according to the diplomats.

The delegation was led by Anders Bjorgum, an assistant director for the Middle East, said the diplomats.

PLO officials had hoped that Bjorgum and his two aides would come through with the cash and entice Mr. Arafat to set a date for moving to Jericho to start Palestinian self-rule.

But the failure of the mission dimmed hopes that the 64-year-old Palestinian leader would meet an end-of-June deadline he had set for departure from his exile base in Tunis to Jericho.

Israel meanwhile agreed to allow 496 PLO activists to return to their homes in the Gaza Strip and the occupied West Bank, PLO officials said.

Omar Khatib, acting chief of the PLO mission in Amman, said some of those who would be repatriated are members of PLO factions opposed to the U.S.-backed Middle East peace process that began in October 1991.

(Continued on page 12)

Koreas agree to hold summit in bid to end nuclear dispute

SEOUL (AP) — For the first time in nearly half a century, the leaders of rivals North and South Korea have agreed to meet in a bid to resolve doubts about the North's nuclear programme, former U.S. President Jimmy Carter said Saturday.

Back in Seoul after a trip to the North, Mr. Carter also said communist leader Kim Il Sung agreed to freeze his nuclear programme during "good-faith talks" with the United States.

The developments marked a dramatic breakthrough in the 15-month deadlock over suspicion that the hard-line communist North has been developing nuclear weapons.

North Korea says that its nuclear programme is peaceful but has failed to prove it. Mr. Carter told a news conference that Kim Il Sung "wanted me to relay to (South Korean) President Kim Young Sam that the direct meeting could be arranged without extensive delay."

Mr. Carter said he conveyed Kim Il Sung's proposal for summit talks in a meeting with the South Korean president, who accepted it "gladly."

Mr. Carter's mediation drew applause from almost all South Korean political and social groups. The main opposition Democratic Party hailed the proposed first-ever inter-Korea summit as "a

landmark development." In Tokyo, Japanese Foreign Minister Koji Kakizawa welcomed the summit plan but said North Korea must keep its nuclear facilities open to international inspections.

"So, by all means we would like to see this point discussed at the North-South meeting," he told reporters. The top leaders of the two Koreas have never met since their peninsula was divided into the communist North and the capitalist South in 1945. Previous proposals made by the two rival countries for summit talks have failed to materialise.

Quoting Carter, chief presidential spokesman Choo Don-Shik earlier said Kim Il Sung expressed hope of meeting his South Korean counterpart unconditionally "at any time, any place."

The two Koreas are expected to hold contacts to work out details of the summit, the spokesman said. In two rounds of lengthy talks with Kim Il Sung in Pyongyang, Carter said he requested "the total transparency of the entire North Korean nuclear programme."

Mr. Kim responded that his country would freeze its nuclear programme during "good-faith talks" with the United States and would not expel U.N. inspectors in the country, Mr. Carter said.

If Mr. Kim carries through with the promise, Mr. Carter said that in his opinion as a private citizen, the Clinton administration is expected to put anti-North Korea sanctions "in abeyance."

The former U.S. president said he does not think the threat of sanctions would sway North Korea's leadership in the nuclear confrontation.

"In my opinion, the pursuit of sanctions is counterproductive in his particular and unique society," Mr. Carter said. He said the North's leadership would take sanctions as "an insult branding them as an outlaw country."

"This is, in my opinion, something impossible for them to accept," Mr. Carter said.

As a permanent solution to the nuclear dispute, Mr. Kim asked the United States to provide it with a light-water reactor, which produces less plutonium than the North's graphite-moderated reactor, Mr. Carter said.

He described the 82-year-old North Korean leader as "quite reasonable" but added that "his reasonableness will be tested in the future in deeds."

Mr. Carter said he found Kim to be "vigorous, intelligent, surprisingly well-informed" on nuclear and other issues.

Earlier Saturday, Mr. Carter, accompanied by his wife,

Rosalynn, crossed the heavily armed border back into South Korea at the border village of Panmunjom after a four-day visit to the North aimed at resolving the dispute over its communist state's nuclear programme.

Before crossing the border back into the South, Mr. Carter said he is confident that the North's dispute could be resolved through dialogue.

"Overall questions about nuclear weapons can be resolved," the North's official Korean Central News Agency quoted Mr. Carter as saying.

Earlier in Washington, White House officials denied CNN reports that quoted Mr. Carter as saying the Clinton administration would hold off its pursuit of punitive sanctions and provisionally agreed to resume high-level talks with the North.

President Clinton said Friday the United States will keep pushing for U.N. sanctions unless North Korea freezes its nuclear programme and resumes negotiations.

"We have to go to sanctions if the violations continue," Mr. Clinton told reporters.

Mr. Carter's trip had at first been billed as a private visit, but after North Korea expressed eagerness to help resolve the dispute, Washington quickly moved to make Mr. Carter its point man.

Hamas observes wary truce with self-rule regime

By Donna Abu Nady
The Associated Press

GAZA CITY — The leading Islamic militant who delivered fiery sermons each Friday against the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and its peace treaty changed his tone this week, admonishing the faithful that self-rule might work.

On the walls outside, the graffiti signed by the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, that once talked about anger and vengeance now speaks about love.

Even the police, which Hamas once predicted would be the instrument of their oppression, have won praise for their efforts against crime.

While the harsh rhetoric and calls to arms have not disappeared entirely, Islamists are searching for a role under autonomy. Finding that self-rule is popular despite the PLO's disorganisation, they want to work with their rivals in order to hold sway over the religious content of laws and education.

"We are one people, we are one nation and we have one God," Sheikh Ahmad Bahar, one of the most prominent Hamas leaders, told worshippers.

Unlike previous sermons, Sheikh Bahar's Friday speech contained no criticism of the Palestinian police and only mildly scolded the Palestinian negotiators for forgetting that only the Koran can win over the Torah, the Jewish name for the first five books of the Old Testament.

While the party has not heeded an official Palestinian request to depoliticise its mosques, the tone of Hamas preachers has be-



Palestinians gather around the first patrol boat to arrive in the Gaza Strip to help the Palestinians improve the security of the autonomous area (AFP photo)

come milder, their criticism tempered and their anger directed mostly at Israel rather than fellow Palestinians.

The party's graffiti also changed. Instead of "Hamas, the revenge" or "Hamas, the anger," one can see "Hamas, the loving" written in elaborate calligraphy on city walls.

Islamists claimed responsibility for killing four Israelis and two suspected collaborators in Gaza and

the West Bank immediately after autonomy started. But there have been no such attacks since the Palestinian police commander warned that he would crack down no matter what the cost in men.

"Hamas is flirting with the idea of reaching a political accommodation," said Khalil Shikaki, director of a West Bank political science thinktank. "They are waiting to see how things develop."

The PLO, realising its popularity for ushering out the last Israeli troops from Gaza, shows signs of trying to regain control of lost ground. Hamas took away much of the group's initiative in organising most of the attacks on Israeli targets during the uprising that started in December 1987.

Nabil Shaath, top PLO negotiator and member of the council that will govern

the autonomous areas, said this week that the days when political militias ruled the streets are over.

"Hamas does not control anything," he said. "The Palestinian authority is the one responsible for Palestinian security and we will not allow anybody else to impose himself as a judge and a prosecutor."

Sheikh Bahar said that Palestinian police have raided suspected hideouts of activists of Izzedine Al

Qassam, the military wing of Hamas that has carried out numerous operations against the Israelis.

"These are ominous signs and we hope they don't plan to crack down on us," he said, adding without elaboration that the group could defend themselves.

But for the moment they are giving a high profile to their social activism.

They use meetings with police to try to defuse local feuds between Hamas and Fatah cells, or to focus on "indecent" behaviour like men and women mingling on the beach. Hamas wants to maintain the conservative standards in behaviour that spread during the uprising out of respect for the dead.

The group also bowed to Palestinian demands to stop killing suspected collaborators — often used in the community as a cover for personal or clan feuds.

Hamas, outlawed during Israel's occupation, shows all the signs of becoming a political party.

Hassan Asfour, a prominent PLO official, said there are regular contacts between the two sides to reach a "political understanding."

While the group refused an offer by PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat to take part in the governing council, it plans to get into the political mainstream by taking part in municipal elections and through membership in various associations.

It uses a network of kindergartens, food distribution points and other services to spread the message of religion.

"With God's help, we shall continue to grow," said Sheikh Bahar.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Israel TV broadcasts Palestinian reburial

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israel Television broadcast footage for the first time on Friday of the reburial of Palestinians who died in attacks against Israel. The Israeli army permitted the state-run television on Tuesday to follow the reburial of three of the Palestinians from the graveyard in the Jericho area, to graveyards in the area of the West Bank town of Hebron. There is another secret graveyard, within Israel. The reburials were made as a gesture towards the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) as part of the Israel-PLO accords which led to the introduction of Palestinian self-rule in Jericho and the Gaza Strip. Israel previously denied access to the graveyard, in Israeli-controlled land near Jericho. The graves are marked in with numbers. It is not known how many Palestinians are buried there, but the numbers broadcast ran into the 1,500s. The television reported that the army cleaned up the graveyard, also as a humanitarian gesture. It broadcast "before" pictures of skulls lying next to the gravemarkers. Most Palestinian families are alerted if a relative is buried in one of two graveyards, but the PLO says there are more than a hundred Palestinians missing in action who might be buried in the graveyards. The television reported that right-wing legislators opposed the move, saying Israel should hold off on humanitarian gestures until the PLO provides information on six Israeli soldiers still listed as missing in action.

Attackers slit Algerian children's throats

TUNIS (R) — Unidentified killers broke into the home of a retired Algerian gendarme and slit the throats of his nine-year-old daughter, his son, 23, and his wife, early on Friday, Algeria's official news agency APN said. All three died. The former gendarme, another son and his eight-year-old daughter were also slashed in the throat but survived. The old daughter, received in Tunis, said. Their house, in Al Hachl-mia, in Bouira province, 90 kilometres southeast of Algiers, lies just 50 metres from the local gendarmerie and 100 metres from a military barracks, the agency said, citing security sources. Many members of Algeria's security forces and some of their family members, have previously been murdered in their homes in attacks usually blamed by officials on Muslim fundamentalists. Some 3,700 people, mainly security forces members and armed Muslim activists, have been killed in two and a half years of violence which erupted after a general election, dominated by the fundamentalists, was cancelled in January 1992.

Iraq, Yugoslavia to forge closer ties

NICOSIA (AFP) — Iraq and Yugoslavia, both under a U.N. trade embargo, have discussed expanding their economic ties, the Iraqi News Agency (INA) said Friday in a report monitored in Nicosia. The agency said delegations from both sides had met in Baghdad to discuss "ways of stepping up economic and commercial relations between Iraq and Yugoslavia to the mutual benefit of their two nations." INA said the delegations were led on the Yugoslav side by Economy and Trade Minister Milorad Aknovich and for Iraq by Trade Minister Mohammad Mehdi Saleh. INA did not say how long the Yugoslavs had stayed in Baghdad. The same day Mr. Saleh discussed with a Chinese delegation led by Vice Foreign Minister Tian Zengpei the "difficulties of everyday" in Iraq because of the unjust embargo imposed by the United Nations, INA said. Recently, U.S. German and Italian businessmen have been to Iraq to sound out commercial prospects ahead of a possible lifting of economic sanctions imposed to punish Iraq for invading Kuwait in 1990. A French delegation is set to leave for Baghdad at the end of June.

5 pro-Kurdish Turkish MPs flee to Belgium

BRUSSELS (R) — Five members of parliament (MPs) from Turkey's pro-Kurdish Democracy Party (DEP) have fled to Belgium, following a court order for the party's closure, and a sixth is in Germany, a Belgian senator said. "The parliamentarians left Turkey on Thursday and arrived today," Willy Kuijpers told Reuters by telephone. On Thursday Turkey's supreme court ordered the closure of the DEP and decided that 13 of its parliamentary deputies would lose their seats. Mr. Kuijpers said he had written to Belgium's foreign and interior ministers asking for the six to be given permission to remain in the European Union. Ministry officials were not immediately available to comment. The court case against the DEP, started in December last year, stemmed mainly from speeches made abroad by the party's former chairman Yasar Kaya, and from a party manifesto. The verdict will take effect when the court order is published in the official gazette. The lawyer for the DEP, Hasip Kaplan, said Thursday he would appeal to the Strasbourg Human Rights Court. There is no appeal against supreme court decisions in Turkey. The DEP was founded in May last year, after the supreme court banned two other pro-Kurdish parties. DEP deputies, party workers and party premises in the southeast and in other parts of Turkey came under attack in the past year by unknown assailants. Turkey has been battling a Kurdish separatist campaign in the southeast since 1984. Since then, more than 12,000 people have been killed.

Report: Malaysian officials tour Israel

TEL AVIV (AP) — A senior Malaysian political team toured Israel this week, Israel Television reported Friday. The team was led by legislator Sultan Tuanku Abdullah, the brother of Malaysian king, Sultan Azlan Shah, and a confidante of Malaysian Prime Minister Mahatir Mohamad. Mr. Tuanku met with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres in his five-day visit which ended Thursday, the television said. Israel hopes to knock down Islamic resistance to peace through ties with Malaysia, and sees the thriving economy of the country's 18 million people as having great trade potential, it said. Malaysia has long been one of the strongest critics of Israel in the Muslim World. It has censured some of its Far Eastern neighbours, such as Singapore and Indonesia, for warming ties with the Jewish state.

Life is harsh, but safer for Turkish Kurds in Iraq

BAHERY CAMP, Iraq (AP) — Rojda survived civil war raging around her village and the hard trek across the border into northern Iraq.

But her will was broken. She could not go on.

The 55-year-old Turkish Kurd piled branches and paper on her lap and lit them on fire in a suicide attempt Tuesday. Again, she survived — with the pain of new scars adding to the anguish of the loss of her family and homeland.

Rojda is among the estimated 10,000 Turkish Kurds who fled into northern Iraq this year to escape escalating fighting between the army and the Kurdish guerrillas in southeastern Turkey.

Rojda, a widow who goes by a single name, was beside her 17-year-old son during the exodus when he was shot dead by the Turkish soldiers. "I had to keep running, I could not even return to give him a last hug," she said with tears rolling from her cheek shortly after her suicide attempt.

Another son, 23, was taken away by the Turkish soldiers one night in their village in Sirkap province three months ago. "I have not heard from him since then," she told a group of reporters.

And her oldest son is among some 200 Turkish Kurdish protesters who

have been on a hunger strike for the past five days in the town of Zakho in northern Iraq to press the United Nations to improve their conditions. "I know, he will starve himself to death," she said. "Really, I have no reason left to live."

The members of this camp on the Zerkon mountains, about 15 kilometres from the Turkish border, all share similar stories.

Ahmet Berk, 17, who limps on a crutch, feels lucky to make it to the camp after a 20-day trip on a mule. The trip usually takes about four days on foot as they hide inside the mountain caves during the day and proceed after dark.

"I lost my left foot during an army bombardment against our village on New Year's Eve," Mr. Berk said.

The camp is crowded by more than 2,700 people. Among them are about 600 children aged under four, according to the statistics provided by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. There are 744 Turkish Kurds who live in two other nearby camps.

Although the camp life is harsh, it feels safer than in Turkey.

The refugees live in makeshift huts with open tops on the naked soil where the nights are chilly and rain is common this time of the year.

Their daily diet is nothing more than a piece of bread

most of the time. The U.N. supplied 800 grammes of lentils, and rice per person each month do not last long. The relief package also includes nine kilograms of flour.

The sight of malnutrition is everywhere, but specially at the look of the children. They all seem to have runny nose which stick the dust on their face filled with mosquito bites.

Cows, chickens, goats and mules remain inside the camp. A heavy smell remains in the air mainly because of the lack of a sewage system.

Doctors fear from the spread of malaria in the camp where there are already 20 cases. Dr. K. Raj from a Swedish relief agency, Qandil, visits the camps twice a week, but it does not seem enough.

The exodus slowed down for the past few weeks after the Turkish army almost sealed off the border. But escape routes still remain in the mountainous terrain.

The Turkish government says the fleeing campaign is run by Turkey's Kurdish guerrillas who seek international publicity. They have been fighting for autonomy since 1984 in a war which left more than 12,000 people dead.

The Ankara-based human rights organisation lists the names of 955 villages near the Iraqi border emptied by the army since 1987.

U.S.-Saudi relations 'crucial'

WASHINGTON — The following is an official text of the opening statement by Raymond Mabus, U.S. ambassador-designate to Saudi Arabia, as prepared for delivery before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee June 17.

Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you. It is a high privilege to be here today as the President's nominee to be United States ambassador to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. I would like to introduce my wife, Julie, and our children, Elisabeth, who is 3, and Annie, who just became 2.

I would also like to thank my state's two senators, Thad Cochran and Trent Lott, who accompanied me here and introduced me to the subcommittee and also the members of my state's congressional delegation, Chairman Sonny Montgomery, Congressman Gene Taylor, Congressman Benny Thompson

and Congressman Mike Parker who are here today. Chairman Jamie Whitten could not be here today but he sent a representative from his office.

The importance of the relationship between Saudi Arabia and the United States is undoubted. This relationship has and will play a crucial role in many areas, from peace and stability in the Gulf and in the Middle East, to energy, and, increasingly, to our domestic economy through trade between our two countries.

While our cultures have distinct differences, the United States and Saudi Arabia share ties which have matured over the fifty years since President Franklin Roosevelt met with King Abdul Aziz on the USS Quincy on the Great Bitter Lake.

Our relationship has strong economic and commercial ties. Over the past months,

we have seen contracts worth more than \$10 billion announced between Saudi Arabia and United States companies in airplanes and telecommunications. These contracts will have an enormous impact on our economy and will create or save thousands of American jobs. If confirmed as ambassador, I will work to continue to strengthen and enlarge our commercial ties.

Saudi Arabia is the site of one quarter of all the world's proven oil reserves. This gives it an unparalleled impact on the United States' and the world's energy equation.

If confirmed, I will have the first opportunity to serve my country overseas since my Navy service over twenty years ago. It is an obligation that I will take seriously. I will work as hard as I can to advance America's goals and interests in this critical country.

U.S. seeks democratic Algeria

WASHINGTON (USIA) — The following is an official text of the opening statement by Ronald Neumann, U.S. ambassador-designate to Algeria, as prepared for delivery before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee June 17.

Mr. Chairman, members of the Committee, I am honoured to appear before you today as the President's nominee to serve as Ambassador to Algeria. I would like to express my gratitude to the President and the Secretary of State for this nomination. Events in Algeria will have

an effect throughout the region and in Europe. Algeria's importance to the United States derives from its position as one of the largest countries in the Middle East; as a neighbour of U.S. allies Egypt, Morocco, and Tunisia; as an important producer of oil and natural gas; and as a market in which American companies are playing a growing role.

Algeria is at a crossroads in its history. The ongoing violence has produced a climate of fear which feeds extremism of all sorts. The violence

and the pressures for rapid political and economic change in Algeria make this a particularly challenging assignment for an ambassador.

One challenge we will face will be to interpret a complex and rapidly evolving situation. The reporting of my mission will be as complete as our knowledge permits. If confirmed, I would work to promote the longstanding U.S. policy goal of a stable, democratic Algeria with which the U.S. government and American private companies can work.

JORDAN TELEVISION	
Tel: 77311-19	
PROGRAMME TWO	
19:25	World Cup: Belgium vs Morocco
20:20	Daily Summary of football matches
20:30	You Bet Your Life
21:00	News in English
21:30	The House of Eliot
22:00	World Cup: Norway vs Mexico
PRAYER TIMES	
05:30	Fajr
05:25	(Sunrise) Dhuhr
12:37	Dhuhr
19:47	Asr
19:54	Maghreb
21:23	Isha
CHURCHES	
St. Mary of Nazareth Church, Swarth, Tel. 810740.	
The Evangelical Church of God, Tel. 632785.	
St. Joseph Church, Tel. 624590.	
Church of the Annunciation, Tel. 637440.	
De la Solle Church, Tel. 661757.	
Bermuda Church, Tel. 622266.	
Church of the Annunciation, Tel. 623541.	
Anglican Church, Tel. 630851, Tel. 626543.	
American Catholic Church, Tel. 771331.	
Armenian Orthodox Church, Tel. 775261.	
St. Ephraim Church, Tel. 771751.	
Armenian International Church, Tel. 652526.	
Evangelical Lutheran Church, Tel. 824328.	
German-speaking Evangelical Congregation, Tel. 684195.	
The Latter-Day Saints, Tel. 654932.	
Church of Nazareth, Tel. 675691.	
The Evangelical Local Church in Amman, Tel. 811295.	
WEATHER	
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.	
Fine weather will prevail, and temperatures will become below average with winds westerly moderate. In Agaba winds will be moderate and seas calm.	
Min./Max. temp.	
Amman	15/29
Agaba	22/36
Desert	13/23
Jordan Valley	20/35
Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 27, Agaba 33. Humidity readings: Amman 34 per cent. Agaba 30 per cent.	

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR	
USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS	
NIGHT DUTY	
AMMAN:	
Dr. Jamil Tarif	794710
Dr. Abbas Hakim	885446
Dr. Fayez Dabbas	759155
Dr. Ramzi Mawazi	794788
First pharmacy	661912
Ferdows pharmacy	773336
Al Asoma pharmacy	637055
Nairokh pharmacy	636762
Al Salami pharmacy	636730
Yasouh pharmacy	644965
Shmami pharmacy	637660
Nairokh pharmacy	623672
Najib pharmacy	847652
REBID:	
Dr. Ahmad Qana	(-)
Alquds pharmacy	(-)
ZARQA:	
Dr. Akram Hadad	985550
Khalil pharmacy	985417
EMERGENCIES	
Food Control Centre	637111
Civil Defence Department	611111
Civil Defence Immediate	611111
Rescue	630341
Civil Defence Emergency	199
Rescue Police	192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade	891228
Blood Bank	775121
Highway Police	843402
Traffic Police	896390
Public Security Department	630321
Hotel Complaints	605800
Price Complaints	661176
Water and Sewerage	
Complaints	897467
Amman Municipality	623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs	661101
Telephone Information	787111
(directory assistance)	121
Overseas Calls	010230
Central Amman Telephone	
Repairs	09986732
Abdali Telephone Repairs	661101
Jordan Television	773111
Radio Jordan	774111
Water Authority	680100
Jordan Electricity Authority	815615
Electric Power	
Company	636381
RJ Flight Information	06-53200
Queen Alia Int. Airport	06-53200
HOSPITALS	
AMMAN:	
Hussein Medical Centre	813813/32
Khalil Maternity, J. Amn	644281/6
Alkhal Maternity, J. Amn.	
642441/2	
Malhas, J. Amman	626140
Pelastine, Shmami	664171/4
Shmami Hospital	669131
Al-Muasher Hospital	667227/9
The Islamic, Abdali	666127/57
Al-Ahli, Abdali	664164/6
Italian, Al-Muhajreen	77101/3
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh	77511/26
Army, Marka	891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital	642240/50
Amal Hospital	674155
ZARQA:	
Zarqa Govt. Hospital	09983323
Zarqa National Hospital	
Ibn Sina Hospital	09980560
Al Hikma Modern Hospital	09989090
REBID:	
Princess Basma Hospital	06127355
Great Catholic Hospital	10272275
Ibn Al Nafes Hospital	102347100
AQABA:	
Princess Haya Hospital	00334111
FOR THE TRAVELLER	
QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT	
This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia Int.	
ARRIVALS	
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)	
05:30	Bangkok (RJ)
09:00	Damascus (RJ)
09:15	Agaba (RJ)
09:30	Jeddah (RJ)
10:00	Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
10:15	Larnaca (RJ)
10:50	Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
11:00	Beirut (RJ)
17:15	Madrid (RJ)
18:00	New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
18:25	Paris (RJ)
18:25	Istanbul (RJ)
18:55	London (RJ)
19:00	Brussels, Geneva (RJ)
19:35	Aden (RJ)
20:50	Vienna (RJ)
21:30	Rome (RJ)
21:30	Frankfurt (RJ)
01:20	Cairo (RJ)
02:00	Doha (RJ)
Other Flights (Terminal 2)	
04:30	Anatolia (TA)
13:30	Abu Dhabi, Bahrain (GF)
14:25	Moscow (SU)
DEPARTURES	
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)	
05:00	Madrid (RJ)
06:45	Beirut (RJ)
07:00	Agaba (RJ)
10:00	Frankfurt (RJ)
12:00	Rome (RJ)
12:00	Vienna (RJ)
12:00	Tunis, Casablanca (RJ)
12:30	New York (RJ)
12:40	Amsterdam, Athens (RJ)
13:00	Doha (RJ)
13:00	Beirut (RJ)
13:00	London (RJ)
13:00	Brussels, Geneva (RJ)
13:00	Paris (RJ)
13:00	Istanbul (RJ)
13:00	Vienna (RJ)
13:00	Rome (RJ)
13:00	Frankfurt (RJ)
13:00	Cairo (RJ)
13:00	Doha (RJ)
13:00	Abu Dhabi (RJ)
13:00	Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
13:00	Larnaca (RJ)
13:00	Agaba (RJ)
13:00	Beirut (RJ)
13:00	Madrid (RJ)
13:00	New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
13:00	Paris (RJ)
13:00	Istanbul (RJ)
13:00	London (RJ)
13:00	Brussels, Geneva (RJ)
13:00	Aden (RJ)
13:00	Vienna (RJ)
13:00	Rome (RJ)

Chinese official lauds Kingdom's role in peace process

AMMAN (Petra) — A senior Chinese official Saturday voiced his country's readiness to provide all possible facilities to ensure the success of the Middle East peace efforts and underlined Jordan's important role in the peace process.

Speaking at a meeting with Dr. Ibrahim Badran, coordinator general of the Jordanian-Israeli peace negotiations, Wang Changyi, deputy foreign minister, said that China, which last year hosted a meeting of the working group on water issues at the multilateral phase of the Arab-Israeli peace negotiations, was willing to continue

its participation in such efforts. Mr. Wang, who arrived here Friday, said that his country fully appreciates Jordan's position at the peace process and its development efforts.

Dr. Badran said that Jordan was seeking a comprehensive peace which among other things, will guarantee the restoration of Arab lands and water and the repatriation of the Palestinian refugees.

The Chinese official, who arrived here after a visit to Iraq, earlier Saturday met the Foreign Ministry's Secretary

General Nayef Hadid who said that Jordan and China hold almost identical views about world and Middle East issues.

Mr. Hadid reviewed with the visiting official Jordanian-Chinese trade links and said that the balance of trade was heavily in favour of China but could be adjusted through the help of the private sectors.

Mr. Hadid also briefed the Chinese official on the adverse consequences on the Jordanian economy, resulting from the Gulf crisis, and the siege imposed on the port city of Aqaba over the past four years.



Her Royal Highness Princess Basma Saturday talks to wives of

Arab and foreign envoys about ways to help Umm Al Hussein orphanage (Petra photo)

Princess Basma launches donation campaign for orphanage

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Her Royal Highness Princess Basma Saturday launched a campaign to ensure more donations for the Umm Al Hussein Orphanage with the help of Arab and foreign countries' embassies in the Kingdom.

Addressing a meeting of wives of Arab and foreign envoys, the Princess said she was concerned with promoting the annual summer charity bazaar which is organized by Arab and non-Arab embassies to raise funds for the orphanage.

Voicing her appreciation of the embassies' efforts over the past years, the Princess called for and later on at the meeting created a special committee grouping wives of ambassadors to start planning for the development of the annual bazaar.

The Princess, who is honorary chairperson of the Queen Alia Fund for Social Development (QAF), is concerned with expanding the

orphanage's services which currently include academic and vocational training, according to a QAF official.

The 150 orphaned children currently receive academic education and get training as carpenters and blacksmiths, but the Princess is of the view that other training courses should be offered to cater to the requirements of the local labour market and help the students to find jobs later on, said the official.

Items like foodstuff, embroidery, and other handicraft are normally on sale at the bazaar, with the proceeds benefitting the orphanage.

According to the official, embassy staff normally prepare or buy the items which are sold at the bazaar and collect the proceeds themselves, then later present them as a gift to the orphanage.

He said that the one-day bazaar, which normally sells all the items to the visitors, is held at Al Hussein Youth City and their prices are far below that of similar items on the local market.

Cabinet briefed on visits by Ibrahim, World Bank team

AMMAN (Petra) — The Council of Ministers Saturday heard a report from Foreign Minister Talal Sataan Al Hassan on a visit to Jordan, last week, by U.N. envoy Lakhdar Al Ibrahim who is mediating the Yemeni conflict.

The Cabinet also heard a report from Minister of Planning Hasham Al Khatib on a visit to Jordan by a World Bank delegation to discuss loans to the Kingdom, according to Minister of Culture and Acting Minister of Information Jumaa Hammad.

Mr. Hammad, who spoke after the meeting, said that several issues of public interest, like credit facilities to Jordanian farmers and investments in the Kingdom, were also reviewed by the ministers.

At the end of the session, a statement said that the Council of Ministers appointed Mr. Hakam Kheir as Parliament secretary general and the outgoing secretary general of Parliament, Saleh Al Zonbi, as advisor at the Prime Ministry as of July 1, 1994. Mr. Kheir is a holder of Masters degree from Harvard University and has worked for Jordan Television and for the United Nations Development Programme.

The Council of Ministers decided to retire Ali Safadi, information advisor at the Prime Ministry, and former head of the state news agency, Petra, along with Louis Hlas, another prime ministry advisor and former ambassador.

The Council of Ministers also decided to accept the resignation of Mohammad Saleh Al Hourani, director

general of the Social Security Corporation (SSC).

Meanwhile, a Royal Decree was issued Saturday appointing Thouqan Hindawi as acting prime minister and minister of defence in the absence of Dr. Abdul Salam Majali who is accompanying His Majesty King Hussein in the United States for talks with the U.S. administration.

Another Royal Decree released Saturday appointed Minister of State for Legal and Parliamentary Affairs Ahdn Baqi Jammoh as acting minister of awqaf and Islamic affairs and Minister of Finance Sami Gammoh as acting minister of planning.

The Royal Decree appointed Minister of Culture Jumaa Hammad as acting minister of information and Minister of State Abdullah Al Jazi as acting minister of youth.

ICARDA meeting to set parameters for safeguarding environment

By Elia Nasrallah Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The International Centre for Agricultural Research in Dry Areas (ICARDA) is now embarking on the task of finalising a document containing definite proposals for the implementation of a programme on biodiversity and natural resources management in Jordan and four other Middle Eastern countries, according to Dr. Nasri Haddad, ICARDA coordinator of the west Asia region.

He told the Jordan Times Saturday that the final document will contain remarks by delegates to a two-day ICARDA-sponsored meeting which ended in Amman Thursday evening examining the project which is expected to be implemented over five years.

Delegates from Syria, Turkey, Lebanon, Palestine and

Jordan discussed at the meeting ways to protect soil and water resources and stem desertification in their region through the implementation of a wide-scale programme for biodiversity and natural resources management, and approved a draft proposal for ICARDA to finalise it before taking the next step of seeking help to implement the scheme, said Dr. Haddad.

"We are expected to finalise the document before the end of the year and then we will start a campaign for raising at least \$50 million to carry the first phase of this large-scale project," said Dr. Haddad.

A consortium of representatives of the five Middle Eastern countries and ICARDA will be working together to finalise the document which will be presented to donors and which aims at helping safeguard soil, water

and vegetation, he added.

The delegates to the meeting underlined the importance of this vital project for their countries and requested that ICARDA head the task force, preparing the final document, he pointed out.

Dr. Haddad said that ICARDA has tentatively secured pledges from a number of U.N. agencies and other organisations to finance the project which aims at protecting the environment.

Dr. Haddad said that the project would create opportunities for training staff at all levels in matters related to nature-safeguards, fighting off desertification and management of land sustainability.

Dr. Haddad said that the implementation of the biodiversity project runs in line with recommendations passed by the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1992.

Italian firms 'interested' in investing in Jordan

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Italian firms participating in a week-long visit to Jordan are coming in with all options open, including investment and joint ventures in Jordan, the organiser of the event said Saturday.

It was the latest reaffirmation of an increasing Italian interest in the Jordanian market in the wake of the breakthrough in the Middle East peace process. The Italian government and private sector have organised several other events in Jordan this year and other events are planned for later this year.

Sebastiano Pintore, chief executive of the Turin-based Grimes S.R.L., which has put together 16 other Italian firms to take part in this week's event, said market studies had shown high potential for increased cooperation between Italian and Jordanian companies.

"We have found that Jordanian businessmen are good counterparts," Mr. Pintore said.

He said the Italian firms participating in the week-long debate that opens on Monday at the Forte Grand Hotel have been closely familiarised with the Jordanian market and what the Kingdom could offer in terms of commercial cooperation.

"All of them are coming in prepared to discuss not only increased exports to Jordan but also investments in Jordan and joint ventures with Jordanian firms," said Mr. Pintore, speaking in Italian through an interpreter, Leila Kilani of Grimes Jordan. "All options are open."

According to Mr. Pintore, possibilities of getting into the Palestinian market through Jordan are a consideration, but not a major factor behind his interest in Jordan.

"Jordan is indeed in a strategic area, and there are good possibilities if nearby markets are open to us, but it is not the prime factor behind our coming to Amman," Mr. Pintore said.

Jordanian business connections with the West Bank and Gaza Strip are "not a determining factor," he said. "If there are chances there, then they are worth looking into."

Firms taking part in the Italian mission's visit to Jordan include manufacturers of foodstuff, industrial equipment and consumer products as well as exporters of raw material.

Also included are clothing manufacturers and suppliers of medical equipment, construction material and electrical and electronic appliances.

"We have put together a wide-ranging selection of

companies in the event," Mr. Pintore said, adding that Grimes had spent one year in studying the features of the Jordanian market and its peculiarities.

Particularly of help to Grimes was the honorary Jordanian consul in Turin, Masoud Zafarini, "who personally met with Italian businessmen to familiarise them with the Jordanian market and the potential here," Mr. Pintore said.

The event is being held under the patronage of Minister of Industry and Trade Rima Khalaf and in cooperation with the Chamber of Industry and the Chamber of Commerce as well as the Jordan Export Corporation, the Commercial Centre Corporation, the World Trade Centre and the Jordanian-Italian Friendship Society.

The interest that Italian companies are taking in Jordan is also due to a recession in Italy, "leaving them with no choice but to turn to external trade," Mr. Pintore said. However, he added, "it has been proven that Jordan is one of the Arab countries which offer good opportunities despite the country's small population and limited per capita income."

"It is the quality not quantity that counts," said Mr. Pintore, describing Jordanian businessmen as professional and able to establish international connections.

Police: Impersonating robber arrested

By Rama Hussein

Special to the Jordan Times AMMAN — Zarga police Friday arrested a man who was reportedly responsible for more than 50 fraud cases, over seven months, in different parts of the Kingdom, according to Brigadier Abdul Kader Oran, director of the Zarga Police Department.

According to Brig. Oran, the suspect, 38, and not identified by the police, was arrested early Monday morning in the Tabarbour suburb after being chased for an hour by police units.

According to Colonel Bashir Majali, assistant director of the Zarga Police Department, the long search and investigations led the police to suspecting several people. Since reports indicated that the man used rented cars for his robberies, police were searching for rentals made during that period.

"We had suspected a few individuals who were known to have defrauded people before, and we put them under surveillance," Col. Majali told the Jordan Times.

He said that the suspect was seen driving rented cars many times. This, he

added, made the police investigate rental places' records.

At the same time, he added, police discovered that he was seeing a woman at awkward hours. "We linked the two together and discovered that the woman the suspect was seeing had rented the cars in her name during the period the fraud cases had gone on but never used them," he explained.

Police said that the man confessed to committing more than 50 fraud cases in several parts of the Kingdom. The suspect targeted Madaba, Ramtha, Balqa, Irbid, Jerash, Ajloun, the Jordan Valley and the Amman suburbs for his fraudulent activities.

The police official said the man used several ways to rob people while impersonating a police officer. "He used different cars, of different colours and with fake plates. He would pull people off, demand to search them and end up stealing their wallets and belongings," Brig. Oran said.

Furthermore, the suspect would target elderly people, claim that his hand is broken and that he is look-

ing for a village doctor and pickpocket them.

The suspect would also go to a store wearing a police uniform, ask the shopkeeper for goods and when the shopkeeper would turn his back, the suspect would reach in the drawer and steal the money, the official said.

According to Col. Majali, the suspect, a Russeif resident, is married twice and has seven children.

The first official announcement by police was made early this year when they announced that a man impersonating an officer robbed several citizens in different parts of the Kingdom. Then at the beginning of this month, police announced that they were searching for a defrauder in Ghour Al Safi who approached a few people claiming that he was looking for a village doctor. Police, however, did not try to link any of the incidents together.

According to Col. Majali, police have arrested the woman and have recovered a few fake car plates from the suspect's car after the chase. He added that the police are investigating the incident.



Minister of Education Abdul Raouf Al Rawabdeh Saturday visits the

halls where tawjihi students sit for their examination (Petra photo)

Minister visits tawjihi examination halls

AMMAN (Petra) — On the first day of a 10-day, end-of-year tawjihi examination session, Education Minister Abdul Raouf Al Rawabdeh inspected a number of examination halls and later said he was satisfied with the facilities offered to the students and the sets of questions.

"We always expect complaints from students about one subject or another, but it is hoped that this year the examinations will satisfy everyone," said the minister following the tour "in the company of Dr. Mohammad Obeidat, director of the Ministry of Education's Examinations Department."

A total of 78,901 male and female students are taking the examination in the literary, scientific, commercial, industrial, nursing and hotel management courses and are sitting in 1,050 halls in various governorates of the Kingdom, according to Dr.

Obeidat. A total of 4,500 teachers will be marking the students' papers and assessing their results, a process which would start on June 30, one day after the end of the examinations, added Dr. Obeidat.

To ensure that examinations run according to plan, without any complications, said Dr. Obeidat, the Ministry of Education has created an operation room in the ministry building for queries about matters related to examination procedures, halls, students' complaints and regulations about students' attendance.

According to Dr. Obeidat, a separate examination hall has been set up for Jordanian students who had been studying in Yemen before the outbreak of hostilities. He said these students are taking examinations set in accordance with the Yemeni syllabus for tawjihi students.

Jordan produces sufficient poultry meat, table eggs for local market and export

By Elia Nasrallah Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan is currently producing sufficient table eggs and poultry meat for the local market's needs, with surplus for export, according to a senior official at the Ministry of Agriculture.

Engineer Nabil Al Haj Daoud, head of the Poultry and Animal Feed Department at the Ministry, has told the Jordan Times that the Kingdom last year produced 873 million table eggs, of which 79 million were exported to Arab Gulf states.

The 2,500 poultry farms in Jordan have a total production capacity of 107,000 tonnes of poultry meat annually, but last year they together produced only 87,000 tonnes, of which 3,300 tonnes were exported, said Mr. Haj Daoud.

Jordan last year had one deep freeze facility to store poultry meat, but this year one more was set up and the private sector is building facilities with slaughter houses in three different

areas outside Amman, added Mr. Haj Daoud. He said that deep freeze facilities are needed to store poultry meat, whether locally produced or imported, and ensure sufficient strategic reserves for the country.

In the absence of deep freeze facilities, the Ministry of Supply used to import frozen poultry from Europe in order to meet the local market's needs whenever there was a shortage, especially in the winter seasons, noted Mr. Haj Daoud.

By the end of 1993, a JD 300 million capital was invested in poultry farms and related businesses like hatcheries, slaughter houses, fodder processing plants and veterinary centres, among others, which together employ 5,000 workers, according to Mr. Haj Daoud.

He said that the poultry farms together produce nearly 90,000 tonnes of natural manure annually, used in farming, in addition to 10,000 tonnes of other substances employed in the processing of animal feed concentrates.

Asked to comment on recent calls at a seminar on farming, suggesting that it would be cheaper for Jordan to purchase table eggs and poultry meat from other countries rather than producing them locally because the government has been subsidising animal feed prices, Mr. Haj Daoud said this idea is "obsolete."

He said that Jordan would be paying at least \$47 million more for its needs of these commodities should it depend on imports, according to ministry estimates.

In addition to saving a fortune in hard currency, needed for development, the local farms offer jobs to local people and can be depended on to expand and boost production to export more, he pointed out.

Furthermore, said Mr. Haj Daoud, countries which export poultry meat and table eggs most often sell their surpluses which could be lying in store in the warehouses for long periods of time and for this reason these items could sometimes be sold cheaper on the world markets.

Countries hosting Palestinian refugees meet in Tunis

AMMAN (J.T.) — A Jordanian delegation Sunday leaves Amman for Tunis to take part in a meeting of countries hosting Palestinian refugees.

The delegation to the bi-annual meeting is led by Hsuan Bustami, head of studies and research at the Palestinian Affairs Department.

The four-member delegation will be discussing with their counterparts in Syria, Lebanon, Palestine and Egypt matters related to education of Palestinian refugees in their respective countries, said Mr. Bustami.

The week-long meeting, starting Monday, has been organised by the Arab League General Secretariat.

The announcement about the meeting in Tunis coincided with department report about school closure and mistreatment of teachers and students in the Israeli-held Arab territories.

The report, issued by the studies and research unit at the department, spoke of numerous violations against schools and detentions of teachers.

At least 32 Palestinians were sentenced to prison terms ranging from several

months to several years, 23 others to administrative detention and two Arab homes were demolished, added the report.

Furthermore, the report said that in May four more Arabs were killed by Israeli troops and settlers and several others were injured in clashes with the Israeli forces.

Referring to the situation in Israeli jails, the report said that despite repeated protests by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) about the mistreatment of detainees, the conditions in Israeli jails continue to deteriorate.

WHAT'S GOING ON

- ★ Film entitled "Wildcats" at the American Center at 5:50 p.m. (106 minutes).
- ★ Opera evening at the Orthodox Club on Sunday at 8:00 p.m.
- ★ Exhibition by Iraqi artists at Al-Bad Art Gallery in Mecca Street.
- ★ An art exhibition "The Form and Colour in the Arab Art Exhibition," by 16 artists from Jordan and Iraq at the Spanish Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition of works by several Arab artists at the Phoenix Gallery for Art and Culture (Tel. 695291).
- ★ Exhibition by artist Mohammed Fandi at the Orfali Art Gallery in Umm Utheina (Tel. 826932).
- ★ Child Needs Expo at the International Motor Exhibition, Airport Highway (Tel. 653836).
- ★ Exhibition of photographs by artist Mohammad Al Badawi at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition by plastic artist Shawkat Al Alousi at the Alia Art Gallery (Tel. 672872).
- ★ Exhibition on the development of "Le Louvre" at the French Cultural Centre.
- ★ Painting exhibition by artist George Bahjouri at Al Balqa Art Gallery (Tel. 720677).
- ★ Painting exhibition by Jordanian artist Abdul Ra'uf Shamsoun at Darat Al Fann of the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation in Jabal Lweidbeh. Also showing "permanent" exhibition of 56 Arab contemporary artists (Tel. 643251/2).
- ★ Plastic art exhibition by artist Mohammad Al Ameri entitled "Body" at Baladina Art Gallery (Tel. 687598).
- ★ Exhibition of paintings by Fatima El-Helu at Goethe-Institut.
- ★ Photography exhibit entitled "Faces of Jordan" at the American Center.

Jordan Times
Tel: 667171

Forte Grand Employee of the Year selected

The Forte Grand Amman Employee of the Year was awarded to Mona Barham, human resources coordinator, by the Forte Grand vice president for the Middle East and Africa, Gerald Lawless, in the presence of the hotel employees and General Manager, Charles Barker.

Forte operates a total of 852 hotels worldwide, and included in its portfolio are 30 Forte Grand properties which offer first class standards of accommodation and service.

Casmir — the fragrance from Chopard

Raed Abu Shakra director of Abu Shakra Trading Agency held a meeting announcing the launching of the new fragrance CASMIR from Chopard.

Mr. Abu Shakra gave a brief history of Chopard and the creation of the new fragrance.

Casmir was born of an unbroken tradition of oriental essences. It embodies the genesis of an entirely new generation of fragrance.

Jordan Times

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Chairman of the Board of Directors:

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Not late for Arab effort

YEMEN'S six-week-old civil war still rages on despite Arab and international efforts to stop the bloodletting and destruction and bring the warring parties back to the negotiating table. Even the latest efforts of the U.N. Security Council to halt the war and start peace talks does not seem to be leading to an early halt to hostilities. U.N. special envoy Lakhdar Brahimi's visit to Yemen on June 8 to convince the combatants to accept the Security Council's ceasefire resolution also appear to have bogged down in the quagmire of the escalating infighting between Sanaa and Aden.

What exacerbates the situation in Yemen is the split between the Arabs with some openly siding with Aden and others opting to restore Yemeni unity at all costs. The same Arab division that characterised the Arab World during the Gulf crisis in 1991 appears to be still haunting the Arab countries. Without the Arab capitals being able to put the national interests of the Yemeni people ahead of their own immediate interests, there can be no hope that the bloodshed could cease.

The U.N. has made a bid to bring about a ceasefire and set in motion peace talks but has not put in place an effective machinery to attain these objectives. Meanwhile, the war around Aden goes on unabated with both the Arab and non-Arab worlds watching civilian casualties on both sides mounting.

Perhaps it would be too much to ask for an Arab summit at this stage since the wounds of the Gulf crisis and war have yet to be healed completely. Still we expect the Arab League to make a more determined effort to stop the Yemeni war. This should be the primary goal of any sincere Arab attempt to contribute to the end of conflict there. Once hostilities are halted and contained, the second Arab objective should be to bring the two factions back to the conference table.

Aden and Sanaa were once able to conclude not only peace between them but also to forge unity between their two respective parts of the country. There is no reason not to expect them to demonstrate the same kind of high statesmanship by reconciling their differences in a peaceful way. Greater Arab efforts need to be exerted for this purpose. The Arab World must not repeat its performance in the aftermath of the Iraqi invasion and occupation of Kuwait. This is the time to start the healing process between the Arab capitals and the Yemeni conflict offers the opportunity to start a new page in the inter Arab relations and demonstrates to the world that Arab differences can be solved within an Arab context.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A DECISION by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) to grant the Israeli prime minister and foreign minister a distinguished international award came under bitter criticism by Mahmoud Khatami, a columnist in Al Ra'i daily. The writer said that the awarding of this prize can only be interpreted as an encouragement to Israel's inhuman actions against the Arabs and an award for its 27-year old occupation of parts of Syria, Lebanon, Jordanian and Palestinian lands. The granting of the prize comes at a time when the world community witnesses Israel's procrastinations in implementing the autonomy rule for the Palestinians and Israel's continued building of settlements in Arab land, added the writer. He said that honouring the two men reflects UNESCO's disregard for all that Israel has been doing and the illegal practices that harmed Palestinian people's national interests and Arab Muslim sites and educational institutions. The writer urged the Palestine Liberation Organisation leader Yasser Arafat, who is also to share the UNESCO award on July 6, to abstain from receiving the award under the present circumstances.

COMMENTING on the exchange of ambassadors between the Vatican and Israel, a columnist in Al Ra'i daily said that the Holy See's recognition of Israel reflects the Zionist influence on the Vatican; and the move is taken at the expense of Arab national interests in the holy land, said Mohammad Kharroub. The writer said the Vatican was encouraged to take the step in light of the Palestinian-Israeli accord reached in Oslo, and in total disregard for its own previous pledges to the Arabs and before a final settlement to the Palestine question has been reached. He said that the Vatican does not bear the sole responsibility for this unfavourable development, but the Arab and Muslim countries are also to blame for their failure to take steps to deter the Vatican from recognising Israel before a settlement for the Middle East conflict has been concluded. The Arabs and Muslims, said the writer, have allowed Israel to add one more success to its achievements by ensuring the Vatican's support for its occupation of Arab land.

Sunday's Economic Pulse

By Dr. Fahed Al Fanek

Bank credit overextended

CREDIT FACILITIES extended by the Jordanian licensed banks increased during 1993 by JD 400 million, a staggering growth of 18 per cent over and above the credit balances at the end of 1992. This huge figure does not include credit extended by the Industrial Development Bank (IDB), Agricultural Credit Corporation (ACC) and other specialised financing institutions which must be added.

In contrast, total deposits with the licensed banks rose during 1993 by JD 216 million, or 5 per cent only of the balance outstanding at the end of the previous year.

When credit grows by 18 per cent, while deposits grow by only 5 per cent, we can easily conclude that this growth was not balanced, and the banking system may run into trouble. If this trend continued, the banking system may run into trouble. In sound banking policies, growth of credit should not surpass the growth of deposits. The net liquidity in the banking system, available for extending fresh credit, declined to around JD 300 million, represented by free deposits in the Central Bank in excess of the obligatory requirements as minimum cash reserve calculated as a percentage of each bank's deposits.

This over-expansion of credit took place in 1993 under a monetary policy officially labelled as restrictive, and under strict credit ceilings imposed by the International Monetary Fund (IMF). One would ponder. What could have happened had it not been for the so-called credit ceilings and restrictive monetary policy, if we did really have one.

The ceiling of credit, required by the IMF as a condition, amounting to JD 400 million a year, is too high and unjustified. First because application of funds should not be allowed to exceed new sources of funds except at the expense of liquidity, which is not sustainable nor prudent, and second because a healthy growth of credit should not be more than needed to accommodate real growth of the economy, which was 5.7 per cent, and the rate of inflation, which was 4.8 per

cent, combined. Credit expansion therefore should not go beyond 10.8 per cent, otherwise it will be an open invitation for inflation, higher consumption, more imports, an increase of deficit in the balance of trade and in the balance of payment, and the deterioration of the foreign exchange reserves of the Central Bank.

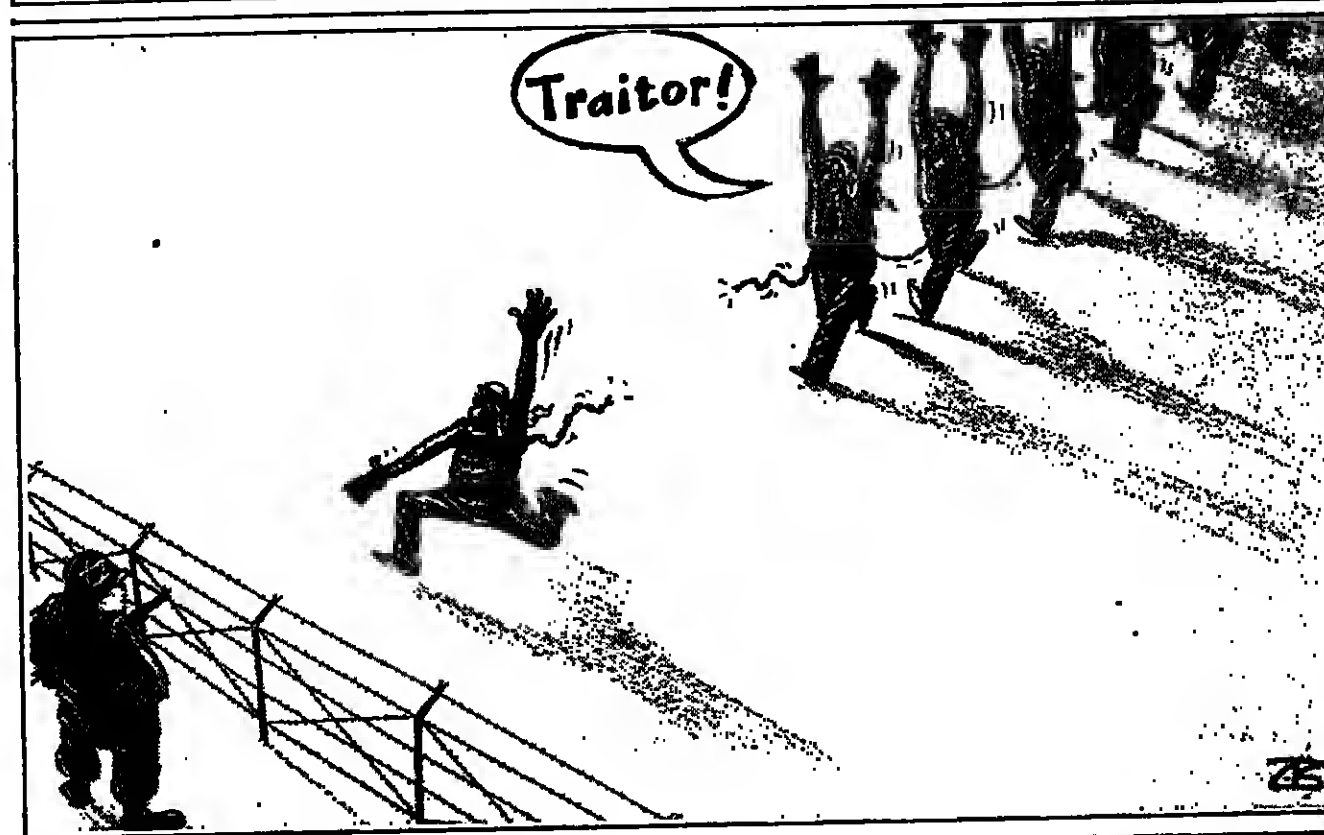
If banks allowed their credit facilities to grow at the same rate during 1994, which will continue to be within the parameters of the IMF, liquidity of the banking system will dry up, inter-bank deposits will disappear all together and the structural distortion of the national economy will go from bad to worse.

The fiscal and monetary guidelines set by the IMF as annual targets should not become a hindrance in the way of sound fiscal and monetary policies. It was a big mistake for the Finance Committee of the Lower House of Parliament to believe that reducing deficit in the budget beyond the target set by the IMF would be an unnecessary sacrifice, and for the Central Bank to act as if everything is alright as long as it falls within the guidelines of the IMF economic adjustment programme.

Jordanian decision makers should be more keen than the IMF experts in performing feasible reforms and achieving financial self-sufficiency as early as possible.

In this spirit the high ceiling of bank credit prescribed by the IMF should be dismissed as too expansionary. Stricter targets should be applied. The recent decline in Central Bank reserves should not go unnoticed and must be blamed, at least in part, on the expansionary climate. Something must be done about it.

In a free market economy, interventions and restrictions should be minimised. But as far as the banking system is concerned, more restrictions and close supervision are called for. Indirect measures should help, but they could not replace rigorous supervision by the Central Bank.



The long march to a peace economy

Editor's note

A CONFERENCE ON financial markets in the Middle East, held in London on April 28-29, was attended by about 400 delegates from all over the world. The event was organised as part of Britain's contribution to the work of the Regional Economic Development Working Group, set up within the Arab-Israeli peace talks. Four speakers from Jordan presented papers and gave speeches at the conference. They were Michel Marto of the Central Bank of Jordan, Umayyah Toukan from the Amman Financial Market, Waleed Al Shair from an auditing company, and Basil Jardaneh, the former minister of finance, who presented the views of private banks.

The London based Middle East Economic Digest (MEED), summarised Mr. Jardaneh's paper and published it in its May 20 issue. Following is a reprint from MEED:

THE HETEROGENEOUS monetary policies that exist currently in the region and the differences in economic goals make any integration programme very difficult to implement at present.

Therefore, harmonisation, economic reforms and structural adjustments are required to reach the convergence needed to start the integration programme. A gradual approach to integration in terms of the number of participating countries, as well as convergence, is an important ingredient to a successful venture. It should start with countries that can harmonise their economic systems, monetary and fiscal policies as well as remove economic barriers easily.

A common language, culture and family ties would certainly contribute to this endeavour. In addition, political willingness and public support to give up some aspects of sovereignty is a prerequisite for (success).

There is a good chance to start a regional integration programme by integration between the occupied territories and Jordan because of the special relationship between them. Due to the current relationship between the occupied territories and Israel, a clear definition of the shape of the banking relationship between Israel and the occupied territories should also be addressed.

The potential for success of long-term integration looks to be more promising than with Israel, especially when we take into consideration:

— The size of the Israeli economy, its level of development and the structure of their GDP (which) makes the harmonisation of economic policies, especially monetary and fiscal policies, between the occupied territories and Israel difficult.

— The occupied territories' economy is at present too dependent on Israel... Since Arab countries would be the major markets for the occupied territories, less dependence on Israel and the redirection of the newly created trade to the Arab World through Jordan would be a more realistic possibility.

— Interest rate policies, inflation and wage rates are areas where the potential for convergence between Israel, Jordan and the occupied territories is limited. (It) appears that Jordan and the occupied territories could be suitable candidates for the beginning of a banking integration programme that could be joined, later on, by other countries in the region.

The success of this venture could be ensured by several factors including demographic and geo-political factors. (A) significant part of investments in the occupied territories would come from Palestinians residing in Jordan.

dinar. (T)here is also good potential for policy harmonisation between the occupied territories and Jordan.

The following facts and comments will give further support to this conclusion:

— Jordan hosts hundreds of thousands of Palestinians...

— Historically, the Jordanian dinar has been accepted in the occupied territories as legal tender and as a currency of savings. It is estimated that there are around JD 500 million in the form of currency and deposits in the occupied territories. In addition, the dinar has been generally accepted by the public...

— A substantial amount of investments and savings held in Jordan belong to occupied system that would ensure the flow of funds from and to the occupied territories. On the other hand, a lot of residents in Jordan of Palestinian origin have property and investments in the occupied territories which further enforce the requirement for a smooth flow of funds to and from Jordan.

— A substantial amount of future investments in the occupied territories would be executed by individuals residing in Jordan. A banking system that facilitates the flow of funds is a prerequisite for the flow of investments.

— The expected expansion of banks in the occupied territories is a formidable task by itself. To achieve such a task, Jordanian banks have a major role to play...

— Due to occupation, trade of the occupied territories with Arab countries... is almost non-existent. A strong movement towards improving trade relationships and utilising the potential for trade should be encouraged. Jordan will be an important market for the occupied territories (and vice versa) and an outlet for the occupied territories' goods and services to (other) Arab countries.

A cross banking and financial system will support the achievement of this goal.

Within the above outlined framework, cooperation in banking between the occupied territories and Israel should be maintained. However, there should be a strong focus on integration between Jordan and the occupied territories that would expedite the flow of funds and resources as a beginning of a programme that could be joined by other countries in the region later on.

The coordination between the occupied territories and Israel should serve some areas related to the earnings of Palestinian labourers in Israel, the settlement of trade and the flow of funds. However, the possibility of any harmonisation with regard to interest rates, fiscal and monetary policies as well as wage policies are difficult to achieve at the present time due to the great divergence between the two economies.

As for Jordan and the occupied territories, a strong integration seems to be viable. Such integration should not only ensure the free movement of funds, but should also go further to create a convergence in economic, fiscal and monetary policies to avoid imbalances due to the movement of capital and funds. Such policies should be supported by integrating capital markets and by allowing for the dual listing and trading of shares of Jordanian and Palestinian companies on both markets.

This integration would be expedited by having one currency in the two economies, or, if this not possible, a linked fixed exchange rate between the two currencies could be introduced. This could also be supported in either case by the convergence in economic, monetary and fiscal policies in order to expedite the free movement of funds and capital.

The policies adopted in case of two currencies should ensure the full convertibility between the two currencies and at a linked exchange rate while they move together against all other currencies.

Understanding the enemy

By Mariam M. Shahin
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

HAVING SPENT much of the last six months in the occupied territories and realising the urgent need for peace I willingly attended a conference in Morocco last month entitled Women and Peace.

I found the conference, attended by women from Palestine and Israel as well as most Arab and many European countries, to be of extreme political significance.

There has been a growing public debate in Jordan on whether opinion makers, such as politicians, NGO members as well as writers and journalists should be attending conferences and cultural events where Israelis are present or which are staged specifically to attain an Arab-Israeli dialogue.

The most wide-ranging debate thus far centred on the Arab writer and poet, Adonis, after having attended a cultural gathering with Israeli intellectuals in Granada, sponsored by UNESCO, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation.

The participation of five women from Jordan in the Morocco conference is also being questioned and labelled as less than patriotic. Those who are attended being warned that they should not fall into "the trap" and become victims of those who want to impose a false peace on the Arabs.

This is interesting, but if I may say so, rather late and futile. The so-called false peace has already been lost. We, the Arabs, have lost wars with our enemy for 40 years. Countless lives, great resources and the quality of life have been sacrificed in a battle we continue to lose. In the opinion of some of us, including myself — we are now being challenged to win through peace. And we cannot win the peace if we did not speak to the enemy.

For if we want to make sure that this peace is not going to be a surrender, we cannot do so by staying stubbornly in a corner and closing our eyes to reality. There is no room for naïveté. The Israelis want peace, and they want our markets, our land, and our Jerusalem. Since we have failed to obtain our rights through military might or because of the lack of it — we are obliged by simple logic to find other ways to obtain them.

Certainly one way of doing this is through active participation in the process, informing ourselves first hand on the realities and different aspects of it.

The Palestinians learned this some time ago. In Palestine even the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine speak to the Israelis, sometimes even in Hebrew.

Ordinary citizens there make personal and individual efforts to end the occupation

through either dialogue or militant resistance on a daily basis. Lacking a centralised effective leadership, individuals have taken matters into their own hands — for good or bad. The result has been a relatively democratic society, despite the often decidedly undemocratic character of the Palestinian leadership abroad.

In Morocco the Jordanian women, whose participation has been stirred and whose patriotism has been questioned, brought the plight of our fellow Arabs in Iraq and Yemen onto the agenda. The solidarity between Jordanians and Palestinians as well as Syrians and Lebanese and Arab Maghreb women was also made clear and obvious by the cooperation among the Arab parties attending.

The Arab women delivered a single most important message when they said — "this peace is not complete and not just." The participation of so many different women made a greater impact than had only one delegation said the same thing.

A united Arab front is not easy to achieve — but fortunately in Morocco it was possible to achieve, in part thanks to the participation of Jordanian women.

I presume it is well-known to the critics of the women who attended the Morocco conference that Jordanians of all ranks and occupations, government and non-government, are meeting with Israelis to study and inform themselves about the realities which we will all have to deal with very soon.

The fuss is therefore out of proportion in my humble opinion.

Should we not know our enemies? Should we continue to be the victims of mirages and rumours and must we remain ignorant of the world around us?

Should this peace be like the war, a one-sided battle? There are those of us who continue to subscribe to the military option, but let us give those who want to make the very best possible out of peace a chance. Peace need not mean submission, this peace does not need to be a Versailles version.

Not so many people in the Arab World have the stomach or the courage to look the enemy face to face and deal with him/her as our Palestinian brothers and sisters under occupation have done; this is a natural stance after decades of hostility.

Many Palestinians under occupation also wish for the day when they never have to look at an Israeli again.

But the facts speak for themselves, the peace is being made with us or without us. If we want to know what it is all about we must be there or we will remain drowned in our own sea of ignorance.

As so often stated by our leaders, we are after all a front line state not an unconcerned bystander.

And courage is a virtue not a vice.

LETTERS

'Pure torture' on JTV

To the Editor:

I AM writing after suffering from recent bad programming by Channel 2 of Jordan Television (JTV). I wish to convey a strong feeling of disappointment by a large number of viewers with whom I have daily contact. The main comment is one relating to the choice of films we are subjected to. I am not at all exaggerating when I say that a large percentage of these films is pure torture. I cannot understand the motives behind the continuous bombardment of the viewer with stories unrelated to entertainment and/or education, which is, I presume, the reason for airing any film. Most of the subjects are either naive, ancient American police or murder sagas, or much worse, depressing stories about complicated diseases afflicting nice and lovable people struggling to stay alive and survive against insurmountable odds.

These subjects, I believe, are not a reflection of our daily lives, and if they were, we would want to forget them and not entrench them in our thoughts. Last week's film topped the list of the depression table when a caddy nine-year old boy had to face the death of both parents, life with an incapacitated grandmother who was being chased by the authorities bent on stripping her of custody of the boy and the futile search for nonexistent compassion from any quarter. Would you believe that the highlight of the film was when the grandmother died and delivered us from our misery and forced tears.

I suggest the people in charge of choosing films should go out to the real world and actually talk to real viewers to get some feedback. Anything is better than watching someone dying in agony. I wonder if JTV has heard of comedy, action, adventure, science-fiction or fantasy movies. Please spare us overused cliché of "serious films with a message". There is no message in a bad film.

Another point I wish to mention in passing is that it is a shame that on a public Jordanian holiday, our TV is closed the morning and our kids have to sit watching programmes in an incomprehensible foreign language from a neighbouring country.

J. Salem
Amman



A U.S. soldier collects his tool kit after routine checks of heavy artillery south of the demilitarised zone dividing the two Koreas (AFP photo)

N. Korea steps back from the brink

By Laura King
The Associated Press
SEOUL — It could be a key breakthrough in the 15-month-old nuclear stalemate, a step back from the brink. But is North Korea really ready to try to resolve the impasse?

The hardline Communist state, in talks with former U.S. president Jimmy Carter on Thursday, expressed eagerness for new dialogue and agreed not to expel the nuclear inspectors now in the country.

But reaction to the North's overture had a common theme: caution. And with good reason.

It wouldn't be the first time the international community's hopes were raised — and then dashed — by expressions of willingness on Pyongyang's part to finally come clean about its nuclear intentions.

The most recent example of that came in May, when North Korea agreed to allow inspectors back in to resume work they were forced to abandon in March.

Then the north turned around and refueled a reactor in a way that made it impossible, inspectors said, to determine whether plutonium had been diverted for nuclear weapons.

Relations have gone down hill from there. The United States, in concert with Japan and South Korea, is circulating a draft U.N. resolution calling for sanctions against the Communist state. The North has responded with repeated threats of war.

Earlier this week, North Korea quit the International Atomic Energy Agency, the U.N.'s nuclear watchdog. That set off an unprecedented display of war jitters in the South, including panic buying and a run on gas masks.

Mr. Carter's talks have eased those fears. But the actions suggested that more and more South Koreans, for the first time, regard war as a real possibility.

The United States said the draft sanctions resolution was still being circulated at the United Nations

despite the North's overture.

But the pro-sanctions alliance has displayed some signs of weakness. The relative mildness of the draft measure reflected fears that anything stronger could endanger Japanese and South Korean support — or provoke an automatic veto from China.

So is North Korea sincere, or just playing for time?

"I don't give them any credit at all," said analyst Cha Young-Koo of the Korea Institute for Defence Analyses. "This is just more of their game."

U.S. President Bill Clinton said unless the North was willing to freeze its nuclear programme while talks took place, the offer meant little.

"We have to closely check what the North's intentions are before taking appropriate steps," said South Korea's foreign minister.

Earlier this week, South Korea's Defence Minister, Rhee Bong-Tae told law-

makers he believed the North was not simply using fears over its nuclear intentions to win concessions.

Its real goal, he suggested, was to make nuclear weapons — and possibly export nuclear material and technology to other rogue states.

"North Korea's nuclear weapons development is not for diplomatic bargaining," said Mr. Rhee. "It appears to be aiming to become a nuclear nation."

If nothing else, the latest developments could provide a badly needed cooling-off period at a volatile time. A total of 2 million troops are on high alert in the two Koreas, and hair-trigger tensions reign along the heavily fortified border.

But if this turns out to be another dodge, the North risks a strong backlash from the international community. In a very real sense, this could be a last opportunity to come in from the cold.

Said Japan's foreign minister, Koji Kakizawa: "This is a very crucial chance for North Korea."

Republicans to Clinton: keep the soldiers home

By Jill Lawrence
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Republicans oppose invading Haiti nearly as emphatically as they supported invading Panama five years ago.

A Democrat occupies the White House now, freeing Republicans from the bonds of party loyalty. And the Clinton administration, by saying pointedly for weeks that the military option is on the table, is giving them plenty of time to register their objections.

Democrats and Republicans alike rallied behind President George Bush after the Dec. 20, 1989, invasion of Panama. But the harmony stemmed at least partly from the element of surprise: They were reacting to a done deed.

By contrast, the House at one point last month went on record against an invasion of Haiti. Senate Republicans have pleaded with Mr. Clinton by letter to foreclose military action. And there's been a steady drip of criticism via the media.

Senate Republican leader Bob Dole, a potential Clinton rival in 1996, said in one TV appearance that an invasion would be "precisely the wrong thing to do." Another Republican leader, House minority whip Newt Gingrich, said an invasion "would lead to unending problems, and I hope the administration doesn't do it."

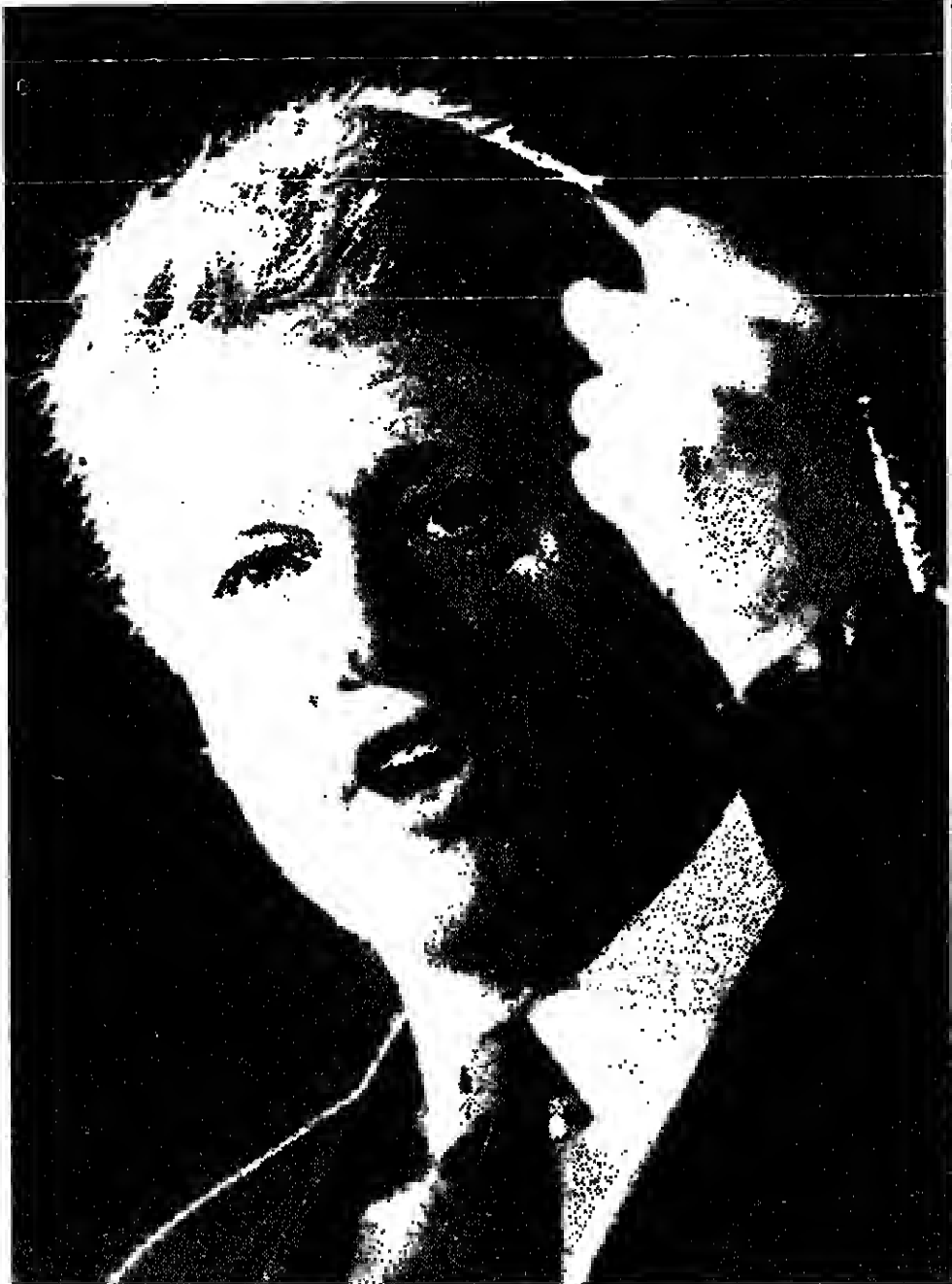
Yet Mr. Clinton is proceeding on a course that analysts say closely resembles Mr. Bush's course on Panama: Escalating rhetoric and escalating economic sanctions.

"The pressure will be on him to actually deliver an invasion," says John Bailey, director of the Centre for Latin American Studies at Georgetown University.

Mr. Clinton is already feeling that pressure from Floridians fed up with refugee problems and also from black Democrats, a key party constituency.

Such domestic political considerations help explain why Haiti is on Mr. Clinton's front burner even as he faces far more serious problems, such as North Korea's intransigence on its nuclear programme.

A half dozen black lawmakers have been arrested in protests over the administration's policy on Haiti. One black lobbyist, Randall Robinson of TransAfrica, even went on a hunger strike. Some advocates argue there is a double standard in the treatment of Cuban and Haitian refugees.



Bill Clinton: Feeling the pressure

The chairman of the congressional black caucus, meanwhile, calls military action the sole alternative if the latest sanctions — bans on commercial air travel and financial transactions — don't dislodge the military government.

William Gray III, Mr. Clinton's representative on Haiti, has defined U.S. interests this way: Haiti is a neighbour, conditions there are causing a continuing refugee problem here and the United States has an interest — as it did in Panama — in restoring a duly elected leader to power.

Republicans counter that there's no cold war threat, such as the Cuban presence that prompted Ronald Reagan to order the Grenada invasion, nor is Haiti itself a military threat to the United States.

But Panama did not present those threats either.

"Why is yesterday's gun-bo intervention today's mistake? There prob-

ably is some hypocrisy" among Republicans, said Democrat Will Marshall, president of the centrist Progressive Policy Institute.

Mr. Bush did have an easier case to make. Panamanian dictator Manuel Noriega had been indicted on drug-trafficking charges in Florida, he had invalidated an election he lost, his forces were harassing U.S. military personnel and nobody knew what was going to happen to the Panama Canal.

Even so the invasion was viewed at first as politically perilous. But low American casualties and the eventual capture of Mr. Noriega craved that impression.

Mr. Dole said at the time that Mr. Bush had neutralised Democratic criticism that he was "overly timid" on foreign policy.

Mr. Clinton has a reputation not only for hesitancy but also inconsistency on foreign policy. A quick, decisive military victory some-

where would go a long way to change that. But while invading Haiti seems easy compared to invading North Korea, it is not without risks.

Most analysts agree U.S. forces could easily jar loose the Haitian rulers and restore President Jean-Bertrand Aristide to power — but then Americans would face an unattractive choice: Leave fast and leave a mess, or stay for years to make sure democracy takes hold.

No wonder Haiti is such a tempting political issue for Republicans unfettered by White House allegiances for the first time in a dozen years.

"The public is not excited about military action. Republicans see that," says Republican political analyst Stuart Rothenberg. "They can afford to say that the chances of losing even one American soldier here are too great to get our nose dirty."

In remotest Russia: mass flight and yearnings for independence

By Julia Rubin
The Associated Press
MAGADAN, Russia — The TV news that is beamed from Moscow to this extreme northeastern corner of Russia talks a lot about Moscow's high prices, lost jobs and crumbling infrastructure. Magadan should have it so good.

"I don't like Muscovites, they're spoiled," says Konstantin Denisov, a mining engineer, as he and his family eat dinner in their cramped two-room apartment to the blare of the set.

Folks in this Russian Klondike pride themselves on toughness, and some, like Denisov, relish their distance from Moscow, eight time zones away.

But more and more people in Russia's remote regions are finding that brava-do isn't enough. Nearly a quarter of the Magadan region's residents, about 90,000 people, have fled the area in the past three years of free-market reforms, and more would follow if they had the money and a place to go.

The trend is echoed across Russia's north, and some of the reasons are right on the Denisovs' table.

Cucumbers and tomatoes, cultivated in city greenhouses or shipped in, cost twice what they do in Moscow, as does a box of candy. The family seldom eats bananas: The 6,000 ru-

bles demanded for a kilogramme, which works out to \$1.50 a pound, equals a week's rent for a decent apartment.

Magadan has one of the harshest climates in the world, where winter coats are still worn in early June, and flowers don't poke their way up until later in the month.

The permafrost buckles what paved roads there are in the city of 150,000 people, an outpost on the Pacific's Sea of Okhotsk surrounded by snow-covered mountains. Neighbourhoods of Rundown, five-story apartment blocks squat in the mud.

Housing in such cold, remote regions is scarcer and shabbier than elsewhere in Russia.

Once, workers volunteered for such postings because of the padded salaries that went with them. But today's hardship bonuses and subsidies for staple foods have been outstripped by the cost of living, and jobs in big state enterprises are drying up.

"Why live in such extreme conditions if you can't even save money?" asks Raya Tartakovskaya, a mining engineer who has lived in Magadan for 31 years and now wants out.

The federal and regional governments have begun building housing in central Russia for northern refugees, but money is tight. Officials estimate there are



Worsening living conditions in Moscow are doing little to discourage Russians in other cities from moving to the capital (AFP photo)

more than 2 million northerners clamoring to move there.

The problem is particu-

larly poignant in Magadan, where some of the stranded are elderly survivors of Josef Stalin's Slave-labour

camp that were once located in the region. Gulag and war veterans are first on Magadan's housing list

for central Russia, says Alexander Trifonov, spokesman for the region's governor.

But the "mainland," as the rest of Russia is called here, does not appeal to everyone.

Mr. Denisov's disdain for Moscow is common. Many Magadaners prefer to look east for help and inspiration, to Alaska.

"We're much closer to America than to Moscow, and the American frontier experience is closer to ours than Europe is," says Viktor Timakov, the Magadan correspondent for the Moscow newspaper Segodnya.

"The most horrible thing about the situation in the Russian provinces now is that Moscow doesn't understand us at all."

This spring, regional officials scored a coup by striking a \$150 million gold-mining deal with a Russian-American joint venture and the U.S. Overseas Private Investment Corp. Despite what Mr. Timakov says was foot-dragging by Moscow.

He said the regions are not so much talking about political self-determination as "just doing it, assuming more and more economic independence."

Magadan stores are not as well stocked as Moscow ones, but do offer a variety of mainly Korean, Chinese, Japanese and American goods. Consumers can buy fruit from Australia and New Zealand as well as from traditional suppliers in southern Russia. Used Japanese cars cost about

the same as new Russian ones, and are far more popular.

Mr. Denisov, in his 50s, says that despite higher prices, he likes the new choices, undreamed of in Soviet times. His monthly salary of half a million rubles (\$250) is good by Magadan standards, and is supplemented by his wife's and son's.

They plan to stay. An outdoorsman, Mr. Denisov fishes for salmon on vacation each summer and smokes it for the winter.

He also says crime is less threatening in Magadan than in Moscow, although at least one organised-crime gang has set up in the far eastern city.

"Out here we have more freedom, more possibilities than Moscow, and more of a belief that tomorrow things will be better," says Mr. Trifonov, the governor's spokesman, who moved to Magadan from his native Vladivostok for the wide-open spaces.

"But in other ways, he admits, 'it's also worse than Moscow. There are a lot of people who have become hostages here.'"

Like Tartakovskaya. For her, market reforms mean weekends spent in a street stall selling cheap clothes flown in from Moscow.

"We'd like to leave, but where to?" she asks. "We haven't even been able to go away on vacation since 1989, it's too expensive."

Syria to tackle environment with World Bank help

DAMASCUS (R) — Scientists from the World Bank are in Syria to study environmental problems and offer a comprehensive plan to combat air pollution which has reached dangerous levels in Damascus.

The official Syrian newspaper, Al Thawra, said the World Bank team will tour Syria for two weeks as part of an effort by the United Nations Development Programme.

The team of experts will report to the environment ministry and other government bodies on how to tackle environmental problems and take preventive action.

Syrian newspapers have dedicated several pages to the environment, including a report quoting the chief chemist of the environment ministry, an infant ministry which has adopted an increasingly high profile in recent months.

The chemist, Abdul Razzak Jilani, told the newspaper Al Thawra that air samples taken from seven areas in Damascus, a city of three million people, in late 1989 and early 1990 showed that pollution "exceeded acceptable levels when compared with international health organisation limits."

The population of Damascus, the world's oldest continuously inhabited capital, swells to more than four million during the day as workers commute to the city already clogged with traffic.

Al Baath newspaper, organ of the ruling party, published a critical article about congestion in a touristic area of Damascus which it said was no longer fit for habitation.

It quoted residents as saying the air was rank with fumes from an average 10,000 cars and buses that roll down its narrow lanes day and night.

"The level of pollution is such that there is not a home where children are not suffering from diseases of lung and throat, infections, asthma and allergies," Al Baath said.

The head of the World Bank team, Sharif Arif, told Al Thawra that Syria, like other Arab capitals, was paying the penalty for building up its industrial base too close to urban areas to take advantage of access to roads and water pumping stations.

Syria, seeking to expand its export capacity by developing its mainly agricultural-based economy, has witnessed a rapid industrial boom in recent years. Factories belching smoke have sprung up across the country of 13 million people.

Mr. Jilani said a mobile laboratory had taken air samples in various parts of the country, particularly near industrial plants and oil facilities, with the aim of presenting regional plans to improve air quality.

He listed solutions for tackling pollution in Damascus, including curbing the movement of private cars, improving public transport, encouraging the use of bicycles and motorcycles by exempting them from road tax and monitoring emissions from plants located around the city.

Future plans could include use of electric buses, building an underground metro system for Damascus and other major cities, switching to lead-free petrol and a study into the possibility of using gas for electricity generation.

Mr. Jilani said 70 per cent of the pollution in Damascus was due to traffic congestion. The government last year ordered all commuter buses to reduce exhaust emissions. But the rise in private car ownership as a result of the industrial-led prosperity continues unchecked.

Financial Markets

Jordan Times in co-operation with Cairo Amman Bank

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	New York CLOS	New York CLOS
	18/6/94	17/6/94
Sterling Pound	1.5200	1.5345
Deutsche Mark	1.6322	1.6095
Swiss Franc	1.3706	1.3552
French Franc	5.5058	5.5005
Japanese Yen	103.54	102.69
European Currency Unit	1.1765	1.1928

1400 PM GMT
European opening - 8.30 AM GMT

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Date: 18/6/94

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.681	0.685
Sterling Pound	1.0592	1.0635
Deutsche Mark	0.4288	0.4309
Swiss Franc	0.5095	0.5120
French Franc	0.1255	0.1261
Japanese Yen	0.6715	0.6739
Dutch Guilder	0.3628	0.3647
Swedish Krona	---	---
Italian Lira	0.0436	0.0438
Belgian Franc	---	---

Other Currencies

Date: 18/6/94

Currency	Bid	Offer
Rabattini Dinar	1.8170	1.8300
Lebanese Lira	0.040100	0.041230
Saudi Riyal	0.16390	0.16480
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.3770	2.3850
Qatari Riyal	0.16770	0.16850
Egyptian Pound	0.2010	0.2250
Omani Riyal	1.7750	1.7910
UAE Dirham	0.18760	0.18850

Stocks slip; trend predicted to continue

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Shares prices at the Amman Financial Market (AFM) continued its slide last week with a drop of 1.6 points or 1.1 per cent in the general price index, the weekly market report showed Saturday.

Brokers said prices would

continue to slip unless concrete signs emerged of Jordanian-Palestinian economic cooperation and prospects were clearer for a Middle East peace settlement that would lead to increased economic activity in the region.

"People have been waiting for some time now for the dividends of peace to

appear," said a broker. "But it seems that false signals were the order of the day over the past several months."

The broker was referring to the economic cooperation agreement reached between Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) in January.

The accord gave Jordan a strong say in the monetary and banking affairs of the Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip during the interim autonomy period envisaged under the Sept. 13 Israel-PLO agreement.

But a subsequent Israel-PLO economic cooperation accord signed in April cast a cloud over the Jordan-PLO agreement and limited Palestinian options in dealing with the Kingdom.

Since then, Jordan and the PLO have not been able to finalise an accord on the modalities of the broader economic cooperation agreement, which had boosted the stocks of banks and industrial companies seen poised to benefit from operations in the occupied territories.

However, the expected meetings of His Majesty King Hussein with U.S. President Bill Clinton and other senior administration officials could have a major impact on the market and reverse the stagnation, brokers said.

"People are encouraged by signs that Jordan could be successful in its endeavours to alleviate its foreign debts and attract funds for investments in the country," said

the head of a portfolio section of a commercial bank at the AFM. "Many eyes are focused on Washington."

The AFM report said market turnover for the week ending Thursday was JD4.8 million, a six per cent rise over the previous week, but a sharp decline when compared with the year's weekly record of JD21 million posted in March.

The report said 2.1 million shares changed hands during the week under 3,506 contracts.

Industrial stock accounted for JD2.8 million, or 54.5 per cent of the week's turnover, followed by commercial bank stock with JD 1.87 million, or 36.4 per cent, the services sector with JD460,000, or 8.9 per cent, and the insurance sector JD10,000 or 0.2 per cent.

The sectoral indices also showed decline. The industrial stock index slipped by two points, or 1.5 per cent, the insurance stock index by 2.4 points, or 1.6 per cent, the services sector index by 1.9 points, or 1.3 per cent, and the banking sector index by 1.4 points or 0.8 per cent.

Shares of 80 companies were trading during the week. Closing prices showed that 16 companies had gained, 64 had lost a little, and six remained during the week.

Brokers, who declined to be identified in line with standing AFM guidelines, said that in addition to the uncertainties of the economic dimensions of the peace process, other reasons behind

the decline in prices were combination of several other factors. These included:

— A slow withdrawal of foreign portfolio operators from the market.

"There is an international trend to focus on stock markets in other parts of Asia particularly India, and South America," said a broker. "We were expecting foreign operators to come into the AFM with a significant capital infusion."

"But the trend, as we see in the past few weeks, is for foreign operators to wind up their operations and quit the market to move toward other pastures."

The broker noted that some of the foreign capital that was withdrawn from the AFM had been injected into the Turkish stock market which is considered another "emerging market" in the region.

"Confusion" over recent Jordanian government moves towards further liberalisation of the economy.

"Official statements at the recent approval of the insurance companies law in Parliament as well as reports of free licensing of brokerage firms at the AFM have not been clearly understood by the public," said the broker.

"As such, they are waiting for clearer signs that economic liberalisation indeed is government's goal, and that is the case they would also like to know what would be the immediate effects before committing their money into the stock market."

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Haiti declares strategic zones off limits to unauthorised visits

PORT-AU-PRINCE (Agencies) — Declaring U.N. sanctions "akin to genocide," Haiti's military-backed provisional government Friday declared its land borders and territorial waters off-limits to unauthorised visits.

The decree also declared late radio and television transmission installations off-limits and prohibited photographs of them.

The measures were the first made public since President Emile Aristide declared a state of emergency on June 11.

"The universal economic sanctions (imposed by the United Nations on May 21) constitute a flagrant violation of the rights of man and are akin to genocide," the decree stated. "The escalation of unilateral sanctions only aims at maintaining a chaotic situation liable to provoke fratricidal war."

The decree, signed by Mr. Aristide, was read on state television Nationale by its director, Emmanuel Menard.

It declared as strategic zones the seashore, territorial waters out to 12 miles (20

kilometres) offshore, and a three-mile (five-kilometre) strip of land along the 240-mile (390-kilometre) border with the Dominican Republic, which shares the Caribbean island of Hispaniola.

It said vessels will be allowed "innocent passage" in territorial waters.

The decree said foreigners caught in the prohibited zones without authorisation will be expelled immediately and Haitians punished by law.

U.S. and other foreign ships enforcing the trade embargo often sail within the 12-mile (20-kilometre) zone. Only a few days after the United Nations tightened the sanctions, a U.S. vessel chased a boat loaded with contraband petroleum close to shore and fired across its bow.

The incident prompted a public condemnation by Roman Catholic Bishop Guire Poulard of Jacmel, a port southwest of the capital of Port-Au-Prince.

Journalists and other observers frequently visit the border region to check on smuggling operations.

Although the Dominican government insists it has sealed the border to smuggling, contraband gasoline is so plentiful in Haiti the price has fallen in recent weeks from a high of \$10 a gallon to around \$6.

Mr. Jonassaint was appointed provisional president last month. The move was condemned by international leaders, who recognise exiled Jean-Bertrand Aristide as the country's legitimately elected president.

The U.N. sanctions are aimed at forcing army leaders to resign and allow the return of Mr. Aristide to the presidency.

The United Nations Security Council imposed a total trade embargo on Haiti on May 21. U.S. President Bill Clinton has since ordered a ban on air service and a halt to most financial transactions on June 25. He has not ruled out the use of military force.

Mr. Jonassaint has pledged to oversee presidential elections this year which would remove Mr. Aristide from office. He was toppled by the army in a September 1991 coup a few months after a



Haitian children collect drinking water in Port-Au-Prince. The U.S.-U.N. total embargo on Haiti is making the basic needs of the Haitian people scarce (AFP photo)

French Socialists meet to salvage something from Euro-poll wreckage

PARIS (AFP) — Leaders of France's divided and weakened Socialist Party met Sunday to try to salvage what they can from the wreckage of last week's European parliamentary elections.

It could mean the end of the line for the party's first secretary, former Prime Minister Michel Rocard, who is asking for a vote of confidence from the executive after the Socialists gained only 14.5 per cent of the vote in last Sunday's poll.

If he fails to be backed, Mr. Rocard can kiss goodbye to his chances of standing as the party candidate in the elections next year to choose the successor to Socialist President Francois Mitterrand. But rivals may well be content to let him dig his own grave a little bit deeper over the next six months while they perfect their own strategies.

The Socialists' crisis meeting follows the publication of an opinion poll Saturday in the daily Le Parisien that said 57 per cent of those questioned, including 60 per cent of Socialist sympathisers, believed Mr. Rocard should not run for president.

Part of the poll was carried out after Mr. Rocard announced Wednesday that he would seek a vote of confidence from the executive, and that he should no longer be considered the "natural candidate" for the presidential elections.

If he were to step aside definitively, 65 per cent of Frenchmen, and 74 per cent of Socialist sympathisers, believed outgoing European Commission President Jacques Delors would be a "good candidate" to replace him, Saturday's poll showed.

Mr. Delors, who steps down as commission head at the end of the year, has not yet declared an interest in running for the French presidency, and said after the European elections he still considered Mr. Rocard to be the natural Socialist candidate.

The party has also put off its choice until December, and there is now no doubt that Mr. Delors will be widely solicited once he steps down from his present job.

Mr. Delors, a finance minister during Mr. Mitterrand's first seven-year term from 1981, could certainly count on the support of the president, whose relations with Mr. Rocard are at an all-time low.

But he has been outside party politics since going to Brussels in 1985, and he will have to overcome the seemingly inextinguishable rivalries of the various factions and the personal ambitions of their leaders.

Sunday's meeting is likely to highlight once more the contradictory ideas of the various tendencies within the Socialist Party on what must be done to revive its flagging fortunes.

Sources close to Laurent Fabius, another former prime minister, said Mr. Rocard, as chairman of the debate, should keep personalities out of it while defining future strategy, the party's political line and its administration.

Analysts guessed he would win a vote of confidence but that it would only last him six months until the choice of presidential candidate is made, unless he can bring about a remarkable turnaround in the party's fortunes.

Students riot in Seoul; 160 hurt

SEOUL (R) — Hundreds of students wielding iron pipes threw petrol bombs and stones at riot police, who countered with volleys of tear gas, during an anti-U.S. and anti-government protest at a Seoul campus Saturday.

Police said about 110 riot police and 50 students were injured during the violence which lasted for nearly six hours on and around Hongik University in western Seoul, involving about 500 students.

A Seoul police officer said some 70 students were detained for taking part in the violence, which coincided with the return to Seoul of former U.S. President Jimmy Carter after a three-day trip to North Korea for talks with resident Kim Il-Sung.

The students occupied a building at the Hongik campus to resist the police raid. Some facilities inside the building were burnt or scorched by fire bombs thrown by the students during the clashes, witnesses said.

It was the first time students have used fire bombs during demonstrations in Seoul this year.

The violence occurred when some 2,500 riot police, firing volleys of tear gas, forced their way into the university to rescue about 50 colleagues dragged by students into the Hongik campus during an earlier clash on a nearby street.

Earlier Saturday the student protesters, mostly from the southern city of Kwangju,

French judge probes death from cyanide medicine

PARIS (R) — A French judge has opened a probe into the death of a nine-year-old girl apparently poisoned by an antibiotic drug laced with cyanide.

French chemical giant Rhone-Poulenc recalled its drug, Josamine, which the girl, named only as Emilie T., drank shortly before dying in Le Havre last Saturday.

The drug is sold only in France and French overseas territories.

Magistrate Christian Bayla said in a statement it could be an isolated incident but he was not ruling out any possibility, adding that 35 gendarmes were probing the case.

State Prosecutor Marc Gaubert said Emilie took the medicine before going to an evening party and lost consciousness 15 minutes later. She was pronounced dead at a hospital emergency unit and a post-mortem confirmed she had taken cyanide.

Rhone Poulenc said it had been informed by police of the fatality Wednesday evening.

A company spokeswoman said it appeared to be an isolated incident.

"We recalled the particular batch and we examined the others in the batch. We found nothing," she said.

Television and radio programmes flashed the recall message Thursday night and broadcast information numbers.

"Cyanide works very quickly, the effects start within half an hour. So anybody who has been using Josamine has nothing to fear," the spokeswoman said.

"It is the people who are starting to open a bottle whom we ask to return the product for safety's sake," she said.

U.S. judge imposes maximum sentences on 5 cult members

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Swayed by evidence so grisly he wouldn't let the jury see it, a judge sentenced five Branch Davidians to the maximum 40 years in prison for the deaths of four U.S. agents.

Three other followers of doomsday preacher David Koresh received more lenient sentences, ranging from five to 20 years, for weapons violations that led to a cataclysmic siege at their Waco compound.

None of the eight Davidians apologised for their crimes, U.S. District Judge Walter Smith said when he imposed the sentences. He reminded them of the weapons they used, the agents left dead on Feb. 28, 1993, and the inferno that ended a 51-day standoff.

Koresh and 78 other people died in the fire that flattened the cult's refuge. Sixteen agents were wounded and six Davidians died in the gun battle between the cult and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms.

The evidence from this trial has not faded from my memory. Certain images are clear," Judge Smith said. "I remember evidence the jury didn't see, evidence I ruled was too gruesome."

Among the evidence he kept from the jury were pictures of the agents' bodies.

"On Feb. 28, 1993, an American tragedy of epic proportions took place," Mr. Smith said, adding that mistakes by government officers were not questions before his court.

The Davidians showed no emotion when they were sentenced.

On Feb. 26, jurors in the seven-week trial cleared all 11 defendants of the most serious murder and conspiracy charges. Three were acquitted of all charges, five were convicted of voluntary manslaughter and three of weapons charges.

Judge Smith sentenced Brad Branch, Kevin Whitcliff, Jaime Castillo, Renos Avram and Livingstone Fagan to maximum 40-year sentences — 10 years for manslaughter and 30 for using a firearm during a crime. They received fines ranging from \$2,000 to \$10,000.

Graeme Craddock, who told Judge Smith he is "not a person who would harm anyone," got a 20-year sentence and a \$2,000 fine for possessing a grenade and using or possessing a firearm during a crime.

Paul Fatta, who wasn't present during the initial shoot-out, got a 15-year sentence and a \$50,000 fine for conspiracy to possess machine guns.

Ruth Riddle, the only woman on trial, got the lightest sentence — five years and a \$2,500 fine for using or carrying a weapon during a crime.

Jury forewomen Sarah Bain said Ms. Riddle's conviction on that count was a mistake and jurors never intended the Davidians to serve so many years in prison.

"I feel directly responsible," a crying Ms. Bain said after the sentencing. "If we had done that (weapons) count properly, the maximum sentence for anyone in there would be 10 years. ... I just regret that part."

Judge Smith ruled all eight defendants would be responsible for \$1.31 million in restitution to the families of the slain agents and to the government. Lawyers for the eight said their clients were destitute.

The judge didn't elaborate on evidence that influenced him in imposing the sentences.



Ex-football superstar O.J. Simpson (centre) is charged with the murder of his ex-wife Nicole Simpson and her friend Ronald Goldman (AFP photo)

O.J. Simpson in jail on suicide watch

LOS ANGELES (R) — Football legend O.J. Simpson, accused of brutally killing his ex-wife and a male friend, was in jail Saturday after being the subject of a huge manhunt.

Simpson eluded his attorney and five other people at a house where they were keeping watch on him, and fled after learning he had been barged with the double murders of his glamorous ex-wife, Nicole Brown Simpson, 35, and her handsome friend, 5-year-old waiter and aspiring model Ronald Goldman.

The two were hacked to death late Sunday night outside Nicole's \$700,000 townhouse in the exclusive Brentwood section of the city.

As law enforcement officials outlined the grisly details of the double murders which made headlines around the world, Simpson decided to make a run for it.

He and a lifelong friend, Al Cowling, ran from Cowling's house in the San Fernando Valley, a suburban sprawl northeast of Los Angeles, and took off in a Jolings white, Ford Bronco.

They were both arrested Friday night after a dramatic 90-hour freeway chase and a subsequent 90-minute standoff in the driveway of Simpson's \$1.2 million Brentwood state.

Holding a pistol to his head, Simpson, said by his lawyer, was suicidal, threatened to kill himself rather than give up, and demanded to see his mother.

But in the end he walked weekly from the car, holding a gun, but two framed pictures of his family. The

gun was later found in the vehicle.

Simpson's mother, Eunice, 72, was admitted to Pacific Medical Centre in San Francisco Friday night suffering from stress a hospital spokeswoman said was brought on by her son's troubles. She was described as being in stable condition.

Simpson was taken to the Los Angeles Police Department's Parker Centre Headquarters, where he was fingerprinted and photographed before being sent to the Los Angeles County Jail where he was put on a suicide watch.

He was expected to be arraigned in court Monday.

His surrender ended a day-long drama in which Simpson was charged with killing his ex-wife and her friend to death.

When Simpson failed to surrender at the Los Angeles Police Department's (LAPD) headquarters as arranged by his lawyer, Robert Shapiro, an arrest warrant was issued and a massive manhunt ensued.

Every officer in the LAPD was told to be on watch for the former Buffalo Bills running back, and an all points bulletin was sent to every law enforcement agency in southern California with orders to arrest Simpson on sight.

Legal experts said a defence of temporary insanity in the killings was likely for Simpson in view of his actions Friday.

As Simpson's flight along the Los Angeles area freeways escalated, looking almost like a presidential motorcade, television network and affiliates pre-

empted primetime programming to report on the real life drama being played out on the streets of Hollywood.

NBC, showing a vital National Basketball Association finals match between the New York Knicks and the Houston Rockets, reduced that game to the left hand quarter of television screens as it showed the relatively slow freeway chase in progress.

Several of Simpson's former National Football League colleagues called Los Angeles area radio stations urging him to give himself up in the hope that he was tuned in.

But his first wife, Marguerite, in a conversation with KNX Radio, said hysterically: "Run, go, run, keep going O.J."

Before Simpson was spotted, there were fears he might have committed suicide.

Shapiro, told reporters Simpson wrote three letters before he disappeared — one to his children, one to his mother and a third to the public that said in part: "I can't go on. No matter what the outcome, people will look and point. I can't take that. I can't subject my children to that. This way they can go on and move on with their lives."

Asked if Simpson's letter was a suicide note, Shapiro said: "That is the opinion of the doctors."

If convicted on the two murder charges, which carry an allegation of special circumstances, Simpson could be sentenced to death or, at the least, a prison term of 30 years to life.

Mexico uncertainty grows after peace envoy quits

MEXICO CITY (R) — The resignation of the government peace envoy to Maya rebels in the southern state of Chiapas increased political uncertainty in Mexico as the country's closest-ever presidential elections loomed.

Chiapas peace commissioner Manuel Camacho Solis resigned late Thursday after an apparent power struggle within his own ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI).

He said he had taken the peace process as far as it could go and had been hampered in his efforts by criticism from Ernesto Zedillo, the PRI's presidential candidate.

Mr. Camacho added he was withdrawing from politics while President Carlos Salinas de Gortari remains in power. Mexico holds presidential elections on Aug. 21 and Mr. Salinas steps down in December.

Mexican stock prices dipped following Mr. Camacho's announcement and the national currency fell against the dollar on what traders described as nervousness and uncertainty.

"A lot of people are expecting negative effects from Camacho's resignation," one foreign exchange trader said.

The guerrillas of the self-styled Zapatista National Liberation Army, who rose up in arms on Jan. 1 to demand greater democracy, land and legal reform and fairer treatment for Mexico's indigenous people, had no immediate reaction but there were reports of renewed unrest in Chiapas.

A ceasefire has held in the impoverished state near the Guatemalan border since Camacho became peace envoy.

Samuel Ruiz, the bishop of San Cristobal de Las Casas in Chiapas who has mediated in the conflict, said he would continue to work for peace but the government named no one to replace Mr. Camacho.

Political analysts and opposition politicians said Mr. Camacho's broadside against Mr. Zedillo appeared to be part of a wider power struggle ahead of the August elections.

"We are seeing a clear confrontation between (Camacho) and the ruling party candidate," said Cuauhtemoc Cardenas, the

presidential candidate of the centre-left Democratic Revolution Party.

Camacho, widely believed to harbour presidential ambitions of his own, appeared to be trying to set himself up as an independent political force by distancing himself from Mr. Zedillo without completely cutting his ties to Mr. Salinas, they said.

"Camacho is swimming in several seas," wrote political commentator Carlos Ramirez, who is seen as close to the former peace envoy, in El Financiero newspaper.

"There is Salinas' game, (using Camacho) as a bridge to independent groups which favour greater democracy there is Camacho's own game, seeking greater political room for himself... and there is the game of important political groups who think Camacho should have a bigger role in national politics."

It was unclear what Mr. Camacho's future plans were or how close he remained to Mr. Salinas, although an aide told Reuters that despite his attack on Mr. Zedillo, Mr. Camacho had not resigned from the ruling party.

Mr. Camacho recently joined a group of intellectuals and politicians who are seeking to push for greater democracy and to promote stability if the August elections produce no clear winner.

Mr. Camacho had been in charge of peace efforts in Chiapas since mid-January.

In March he offered a 32-point peace proposal to the rebels but after a three-month period of consultation with their supporters they rejected the proposal as insufficient last week, prompting Mr. Zedillo's criticism of Mr. Camacho.

The Zapatistas nevertheless said they would honour the ceasefire and suggested further talks, while retaining the option of returning to war if the elections are fraudulent.

Mr. Zedillo, who is facing a stiff challenge from conservative candidate Diego Fernandez de Cevallos in the August polls, said Friday he continued to back peace and a fair deal for the rebels but repeated his charge that Mr. Camacho had promised an end to the conflict and then failed to deliver.

Roadblocks to stay round City of London

LONDON (R) — A network of roadblocks set up last year on roads into London's city business district following two devastating Irish Republican Army (IRA) bombs will be kept on after helping to ease traffic jams and cut crime. The city corporation said Friday that crime in the "square mile" fell by 17 per cent last year following the introduction of the traffic checks, manned by armed police. They were installed after bomb blasts at the Baltic Exchange, the world's largest shipping market, in 1992 and the Bishopsgate Office area last year caused huge damage. The IRA, fighting to end British rule in Northern Ireland, claimed responsibility for both bombs.

The roadblocks, which have reduced the number of access points to the city, were initially due to be in place for a year. Corporation Planning Committee Chairman Barbara Newman said they had been made permanent because of the success of the traffic management scheme.

"The original aim of the scheme was to encourage through-traffic on to the city's main roads, leaving the city's smaller streets free for local city traffic — and it has been a tremendous success," she said.

British tycoon hurt in accident

LONDON (R) — British entrepreneur Richard Branson and his family suffered minor injuries early Saturday after their car flipped over on a busy motorway, police said.

The 43-year-old chief of Virgin Atlantic Airways, his wife, two children and a friend were pulled from their Range Rover by a policeman after it overturned several times and then landed on its roof in the fast lane of the motorway in Oxfordshire, southern England. "They were very, very lucky. It was a frightening experience for anyone," police said.

A spokesman for multi-millionaire Branson, who was driving the vehicle, said they were treated in hospital and released. "Luckily they were not seriously injured. They had bruising and cuts," he said. "They were saved by a very brave policeman who pulled them out of the car onto the central reservation. As I understand it, the car turned over and travelled for some hundreds of yards (metres). I believe it was clipped by other cars in the fast lane." The policeman who rescued Branson had been dealing with another road accident nearby.

8-year-old Thai girl nabbed on heroin charge

BANGKOK (AFP) — Police seized an eight-year-old Thai girl in a province near Bangkok and charged her with possessing heroin worth nearly \$40,000, police said. The girl, identified only as Pattama, was arrested in front of a cemetery in Samut Prakan province shortly after her mother hired a motorcycle taxi to take her to meet a contact, they said. Police said they were unable to arrest the would-be buyer, who apparently was tipped off. The nearly pure heroin was contained in 15 tubes, they said. Police said the girl had been forced by her mother, who they identified only as Amporn, 41, to sell heroin on several previous occasions.

Amporn had served part of a 30-year sentence for drug smuggling and was released last year. The girl has been put in the custody of Public Welfare Office while police look for her mother, the officer said.

Dewi Sukarno's nude photos go floppy

JAKARTA (R) — Nude photographs of the Indonesian president are being circulated in the country through computer diskettes, beating a government ban, the Jakarta Post said Saturday. Photographs of Dewi Sukarno, 53, widow of President Sukarno, that are making the rounds came from a computer programme created by a U.S. company. The programme has apparently been copied locally, the newspaper said. Dewi Sukarno, who became an international jet-setter after Mr. Sukarno died in 1970, sparked a public outcry last year when a book of nude photographs of her was published in Japan.



A man wounded by Rwandan rebels is carried to the Red Cross hospital where about 180 wounded people were admitted following fierce fighting in Kigali despite the African-brokered ceasefire announced Wednesday (AFP photo)

Fighting continues in Bosnia as diplomats press initiative

SARAJEVO (R) — Bosnian Serb and Muslim-led forces traded mortar and artillery fire on northern battle fronts while international mediators pressed ahead with a peace initiative Saturday to try to end the 26-month war in Bosnia.

The fighting took place near Gradacac, Ribnica and Doboj, a United Nations spokesman told reporters in Sarajevo Saturday.

The clashes cast further doubt on the future of a temporary ceasefire in Bosnia that has slowed down fighting between Serb and Bosnian armies since it took effect last week.

International mediators, hoping to kick-start peace negotiations while the tenuous truce was still holding, were meeting representatives of the warring factions over the weekend to push for the latest peace plan backed by the major powers.

The mediators were believed to be presenting a peace map backed by European, U.S. and Russian diplomats that would divide territory between Serbs and the newly formed Muslim-Croat Bosnian Federation.

Diplomats said Russian mediators would present the map soon to Bosnian Serbs and their backers from Serbia, while U.S. envoy Charles Redman met Bosnian government leaders in Sarajevo and would travel to Zagreb for a meeting Sunday.

with President Franjo Tudjman.

The latest map was worked out by the major power "contact group" on Bosnia at a meeting in London.

Croatian Foreign Minister Mate Granic said it was expected to give the new Bosnian Federation around 51 per cent of Bosnian territory, and Bosnian Serbs the rest.

The Serbs, who presently control 70 per cent of the former Yugoslav republic, have indicated they would reject the current map under consideration.

In a Reuters interview, Mr. Granic said the Croat-Muslim Bosnian Federation would likely accept the plan.

"I think the federation will try to find a solution with the contact group because our strong inclination is for peace," Mr. Granic said in the Swiss Alpine town of Crans-Montana, where Croatian and Bosnian officials were attending a business forum.

Mohammad Filipovic, Bosnia's ambassador to Switzerland, said he expected the deal to be accepted when Bosnia's parliament meets next Wednesday to debate the proposal.

Mr. Granic said he was encouraged that the major powers, long at odds over how to end the conflict, were finally "making the same proposal" and said Muslims and Croats were united in their stance.

Washington's special envoy Redman met Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic in Sarajevo Saturday and said the negotiations were "difficult."

Muslim-controlled Sarajevo Radio said Serb mortar bombs killed one person and wounded five Friday night at the village of Turija near the Tuzla.

Bosnian Serb News Agency (SRNA) said Saturday Muslim forces had mortared Serb positions north of Sarajevo in the Sapna region.

Inter-Muslim fighting continued at a lower level in the northwest enclave of Bihać, Commander Eric Chapron said.

Bosnian government troops said Friday they had advanced against rebel Muslim soldiers loyal to breakaway Muslim leader Fikret Abdic.

The first batch of Turkish troops left Saturday by ship to join U.N. peacekeeping forces in Bosnia.

The arrival of the troops seemed certain to anger Serbia and other Balkan states, which have objected to Turkish involvement as a move that could reignite centuries-old animosities.

Orthodox Serbs, who lived under Ottoman rule for hundreds of years, view the Turks as their traditional enemy. Turkey has been a strong supporter of the Muslim-led Bosnian government.

Berlin bids farewell to Western allies

BERLIN (R) — Nearly 100,000 Berliners said an emotional farewell Saturday to U.S., British and French troops who defended their city's freedom during the cold war with a final parade for the departing Western allied troops.

Mayor Eberhard Diepgen thanked the 2,000 Western allied troops on parade, saying Berlin was deeply indebted to the Western allies who protected the once-divided city from a feared Soviet invasion.

"During the last 50 years you and your comrades have been in the front line of the defence of not only the freedom of West Berlin but the freedom of Europe and the peoples' right to self-determination," Mr. Diepgen said.

"Without your commitment Berlin would not be free and Germany would probably not be united," Mr. Diepgen said.

About 2,000 Western allied troops paraded in full military dress for about three kilometres down the 17th of June Avenue west of where the infamous Berlin Wall once stood.

The parade, which included marching bands from the three armies, was led by a joint colour guard made up of French, British and U.S. troops.

"I wish they weren't leaving," said Horst Knuth, a 71-year-old watching the parade. "They protected us from the aggression in the East and gave us a wonderful feeling of security over the last 50 years."

A separate parade for Russian troops stationed in formerly communist East Germany since the end of World War II will be held next Saturday in eastern Berlin.

Requests by Russian forces to march with the Western allies were rejected by the Berlin state and federal governments.

The Western allies first arrived as occupation powers shortly after the end of World War II in 1945 but their role quickly changed and they became the protectors of freedom in West Berlin during the cold war.

Post-war relations between the Soviet Union and Western allies deteriorated. The Soviet Union cut off access to Berlin from western Germany in 1948, leading to an 11-month Western airlift.

Khmer Rouge ordered out of capital

BANGKOK (Agencies) — The Cambodian government has ordered all Khmer Rouge officials to leave Phnom Penh by Sunday after the collapse of the latest round of ceasefire talks, Cambodian radio reported.

The radio, monitored by the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC), quoted an Interior Ministry statement as ordering "all representatives of the PDK Party of Democratic Kampuchea — the Khmer Rouge and their staff" to leave the capital before Sunday.

The statement, which was signed by joint interior ministers Sar Kheng and Yu Hokry, confirmed that two days of talks in Phnom Penh between Khmer Rouge officials and the government this week had made no progress towards national reconciliation.

No other meetings were scheduled, the statement added.

It said officials of the left-wing guerrilla faction were being ordered out of the capital for their own safety after the ministry learned that the "indignant public" planned to take action against them.

The Interior Ministry cannot stop the people from being indignant, cannot force ensure your security, and cannot bear full responsibility for any eventual accidents against your persons," the statement said.

It said the government would provide a safe escort from the Khmer Rouge's Phnom Penh office to the airport.

"Beyond the above (Sunday) deadline, the Interior Ministry will not be held responsible for your security," the statement said.

The Khmer Rouge, under their former leader Pol Pot, killed around a million Cambodians during a three-and-a-half year reign of terror in the late 1970s.

Members of the Khmer Rouge group were hurriedly attempting to obtain visas and airline tickets Saturday after being ordered out of the capital by the government, an official of the group said.

Two senior Khmer Rouge officials, Chan Youran and Mak Ben, left Saturday for Thailand after the latest round of peace talks with the government ended in failure earlier in the week.

Top Khunnal, the third senior guerrilla leader at the failed talks, was among those trying to arrange visas and tickets Saturday after receiving the expulsion order, Meas Chantha, a Khmer Rouge member said, adding it was difficult because most embassies were closed.

"We will go to Pailin or somewhere else," Mr. Meas Chantha said, referring to the guerrilla group's stronghold in northwestern Cambodia.

Meanwhile, the United States appears to have little stomach for providing weapons to Cambodia's government to help it combat the ultra-left Khmer Rouge guerrillas, congressional sources and Asian experts say.

The administration of President Bill Clinton has been considering a number of military options after Phnom Penh asked for military aid, but no decision has been made, a State Department spokesman said.

But experts say fears of becoming sucked into another Indochina war and of U.S. weapons falling into the hands of the Khmer Rouge could prevent the United States from sending weapons or substantial aid.

"Arming the Cambodian army would be a very foolish thing to do," said Hank Kenny, a former State Department official for East Asian and Pacific affairs, who added that Cambodian troops are undisciplined and poorly trained and fed.

"If you do arm them in the little villages, you'd be giving good weapons away. They can't stand up the Khmer Rouge," he said.

U.N. evacuates 300 Rwandan refugees

KIGALI (R) — United Nations peacekeepers evacuated about 300 terrified civilians Saturday who were trapped behind battle lines in the Rwandan capital Kigali, a U.N. spokesman said.

Bursts of machinegun-fire cracked out overhead as 150 people from the dominant Hutu tribe and a similar number from the minority Tutsis were traded across government and rebel zones, Major John-Guy Plante told reporters.

"They were just warning shots," Major Plante said. "We are pressing ahead with our plans to evacuate as many people as possible."

A convoy of trucks rolled out of the U.N. Assistance Mission in Rwanda (UNAMIR) headquarters in the morning after a delay because of a brief burst of fighting.

The Tutsis were picked up from the government-held Hotel Milles Collines and the Hutus from the King Faisal Hospital, controlled by the rebel Rwanda Patriotic Front (RPF).

The Tutsis spoke of terror when Hutu militiamen stormed the hotel Friday. They were saved by quick action by the government army which sent a platoon to throw out the militia.

"We were in God's hands," said Francis Ngeroko. "Anything could have happened."

Thousands of civilians have sought shelter in hotels, church compounds or other sites since an orgy of bloodshed began after the assassination of President Juvénal Habyarimana on April 6.

About 500,000 more are estimated to have been killed, many of them Tutsis or Hutus opposed to the government who were massacred by Hutu soldiers or death squads.

An offensive by the Tutsi-based RPF has driven the government from the capital but troops are still controlling

the western part of Kigali and the southern and northwest towns.

The U.N. commander in Rwanda, Major-General Romeo Dallaire, said Friday he would press ahead with evacuations despite insecurity in Kigali and the problems confronting the poorly-equipped, under-manned U.N. force.

"We have two options," the Canadian general said. "We can sit back and wait for reinforcements, stay in our headquarters and eat our rations, or get on with our job."

It was not clear whether Gen. Dallaire had received security guarantees from the army and rebels to go ahead with the operation, postponed several times in the past.

A ceasefire brokered by African heads of state has failed to hold, making the situation even more fraught for the U.N.

UNAMIR Deputy Commander Brigadier-General Henry Anyidoho told Reuters he believed the resumption of the evacuations would help efforts to effect the ceasefire.

"As you can see all is going well. They (both sides) assured us nothing would happen to the refugees," he said. It was not known who fired shots as the evacuation convoy sped across the city but Gen. Anyidoho played down the incident.

An Uruguayan peacekeeper, Major Juan Sosa, was killed by rebels at close range Friday. The rebels have admitted killing the officer but said it was by mistake.

France Friday pushed its bid for a military intervention in Rwanda by asking the U.N. Security Council to authorise a Paris-led coalition force to halt any massacres before additional U.N. troops can be deployed.

In an effort to get a vote next week, a draft resolution,

was distributed to members late Friday.

The draft, obtained by Reuters, say the mission would be "limited to the transitional period during which UNAMIR will not be able to carry out its mandate effectively."

Paris expects European nations to help with logistics and other symbolic support and believes some African nations, such as Senegal, will contribute troops.

France could send 1,000 soldiers immediately and reinforce the operation up to a level of 2,000, a French envoy said.

The rebels have opposed the French proposal saying Paris supported and armed the Rwanda government army and militias responsible for the same massacres they are now trying to stop.

"France is clearly partial in this matter," RPF commander Major-General Paul Kagame told reporters Friday.

Yeltsin, preparing to crush crime, meets troops

MOSCOW (R) — President Boris Yeltsin, gearing up for a promised crackdown on organised crime, Saturday went to inspect an elite police division which helped him crush a bloody uprising last year.

The president, flanked by interior and foreign ministers, the heads of his counter-intelligence service, and by his national security adviser, promised to increase the number of such troops in his battle against crime.

"You have contributed with dignity to the preservation of civil peace in the country by successfully carrying out your tasks, especially in recent troublesome years," Mr. Yeltsin told the 10,000-man division, still known as the Dzerzhinsky Division.

His message to the division, based just outside Moscow, was published by ITAR-TASS news agency. The unit celebrated its 70th anniversary Saturday.

The division was one of those from the Interior Ministry and the armed forces which helped Mr. Yeltsin crush a bloody uprising by his conservative opponents last October.

Interfax News Agency quoted Mr. Yeltsin as telling the servicemen that 52,000 additional troops would reinforce the Interior Ministry's special units in a crackdown on crime.

Mr. Yeltsin visited another elite armed forces group in September last year, days before issuing a decree dissolving the old parliament which sparked the uprising.

The inspection, it appears now, was an attempt to verify the troops' loyalty to their commander-in-chief.

"I am confident that in future you... will secure public safety in the interests of strengthening the Russian state," Mr. Yeltsin said in his message.

Russian authorities have issued a number of orders to fight organised crime although none have had much effect.

But this time Mr. Yeltsin appears to be taking the matter to heart and he is personally heading the anti-crime campaign.

Earlier this week he issued a decree ordering a crackdown on ruthless, mafia-style gangs flourishing in the post-Communist era, saying they threatened the state.

Mr. Yeltsin has given the Interior Ministry and the FSK, until early next week to present plans for concrete action.

He has also ordered the army to get ready to back Interior Ministry forces in tackling gangs that have penetrated to the core of business and political life in Russia.

Regional leaders have been told to prepare to impose special controls in cities where organised crime is a particular danger.

This could involve the introduction of an emergency regime in economic centres like Moscow, St Petersburg, Vladivostok, Khabarovsk, Krasnodar and Rostov.

Georgian refugees return to Abkhazia and uncertainty

ZUGDIDI, Georgia (AFP) — Some of the quarter million Georgian refugees who fled fighting in the breakaway Republic of Abkhazia last year began to return to their homes this week.

But the journey back is clouded by uncertainty which the imminent deployment of Russian peacekeeping troops has done little to alleviate.

Addressing a crowded public meeting in the town cinema of Zugdidi Thursday, Georgian warlord Djaba Ioseliani said that "within a year, all the refugees will have returned to Abkhazia."

Under the Moscow accord signed between Georgia and Abkhazia last month, refugees from the Gali region, along the Inguri River, natural frontier between Georgia and Abkhazia, will be the first to be allowed to return to their homes.

Russian peacekeepers will control a 48-kilometre (30-mile) wide security zone along the Inguri.

But the agreement states that those who fought the Abkhazians will not be allowed to return. As one refugee stated Thursday: "But we all fought."

Neither will the men be allowed to return to be permitted to own a weapon, something unthinkable to the gun-loving Georgians, who also fear continued looting by Cossacks and north Caucasian fighters still based in the region.

"In Georgia a gun is like a part of the body," said a Western observer at the scene.

Mr. Ioseliani's plea to the audience to return without weapons sounded weak as his Rambo-like bodyguards brandished submachineguns, grenade launchers and pump action shotguns.

At the Inguri bridge, blown up earlier this year and passable only on foot, Abkhazian soldier Victor



Georgian soldiers keep a close eye on the peacekeeping troops begin to clear this zone Adleiba Friday turned back two fearful middle-aged sisters, Georgian refugees. (AFP photo)

Adleiba Friday turned back two fearful middle-aged sisters, Georgian refugees.

"They had no passport and no letter of permission to return," the soldier explained, adding that until the arrival of Russian peacekeepers, "I can't guarantee their safety."

On the Abkhazian side of the border sat a 44-year-old woman. Taiso Tuzhva, a small passport photo of her only son, killed in the war, pinned to her black dress, was waiting for permission to cross the bridge to see her

Georgian husband who fled nine months ago.

"My husband will return with the peace keeping troops," she said. But she added: "We'll be able to live with Georgia but it will be difficult."

Other problems could further hinder the return of refugees.

"The political status of Abkhazia should be decided first, before the refugees return," said Kakha Gikia, head of the nationalist National Democracy Party in Mingrelia, which enjoys large

support in western Georgia.

The representative of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Tbilisi, Taslimur Rahman, believes the refugees will be able to return. "If I didn't have confidence in the sincerity of the parties (Georgian and Abkhazian) then we would have pulled out," he said.

But with the refugees' distrust of the Russians, the lack of a political settlement and the all-too-recent scars of war put into question the ability of Georgians and Abkhazians to live together once more.

China flood toll tops 400, damage mounts

BEIJING (R) — Raging flood waters across southern China have killed more than 400 people, destroyed some 160,000 homes and caused millions of dollars in damage, official reports said Saturday.

Worst hit has been the Guangxi Zhuang autonomous region, where floods have killed 141 people and affected 2.6 million people, state television said.

It said more than 73,000 homes had been destroyed by rising waters, though official newspaper reports put the number at 82,000 houses.

In Guangdong province, the flooding has killed at least 105 people and destroyed 80,000 houses, the official People's Daily said.

In Jiangxi province, at least 19 people have died and 7,000 homes have collapsed.

Flooding has forced the closure of 280 industrial and mining enterprises, the China News said.

The state flood control headquarters in Beijing warned that river valleys in five key southern provinces would be under threat for the next three days as downpours continue to swell rivers above their normal levels.

S. African neo-Nazis demand release of rightists

PRETORIA (R) — Neo-Nazi leader Eugene Terre Blanche told South Africa's black-led government Saturday to release his jailed followers or face renewed right-wing violence.

Mr. Terre Blanche, leader of the para-military Afrikaner Resistance Movement (AWB), issued the demand after a march through central Pretoria by about 140 right-wingers, many of them in camouflage uniforms.

The march, the first by the right wing since the African National Congress (ANC) won the country's first all-race elections in April, drew far fewer people than Mr. Terre Blanche's earlier protests against black rule.

Among those marching were Gaye Derby-Lewis, whose husband Clive is one of two right-wingers on death row for killing Communist leader Chris Hani last year, and mass-murderer Barred Strydom.

"Strydom, who leads an organisation called the White Wolves, was given amnesty as a political prisoner two

years ago after being sentenced to death for killing nine blacks in 1988. He shot eight of them dead in a Pretoria street.

Mr. Strydom was freed at the same time as Robert McBride, an ANC guerrilla who killed three white civilians in a bomb attack on a bar in Durban during the movement's armed struggle against apartheid.

The march Saturday was called by the right-wing political rights organisation, which handed a memorandum to a Justice Department representative demanding "amnesty for all rightist and security force political prisoners."

"There can be no peace in this country if the government cannot show good faith in the equal granting of amnesty for political prisoners on the left and right," the memorandum said.

ANC Justice Minister Dullah Omar has announced plans for a so-called Truth Commission to investigate human rights abuses by all sides during the 46 years of

apartheid.

He has said amnesty or indemnity from prosecution could be offered for some political crimes committed before December last year, when agreement was reached on a new constitution.

Mr. Omar's cut-off date for amnesties means that more than 30 AWB members charged with the murders of 21 people in a bomb wave on the eve of the elections would not qualify.

"If we want peace, all prisoners must be freed," Mr. Terre Blanche told the marchers.

"If our leaders continue to be separated from the soul of their people then we can guarantee no peace. Our struggle will continue."

"We have lost our liberty, we have our fatherland. We cannot stand to lose our physical freedom too."

Mr. Terre Blanche said the march would be the last peaceful protest by his followers if rightists were not freed.

for its freedom it cannot commit a crime. This is recognised under international law," he said.

March organisers said black guerrillas had been given amnesties for bombings and other crimes similar to those for which rightist whites had been charged or convicted.

For the first time, police disarmed the rightists before they were allowed to march behind a military-style band. Black pedestrians watched the procession with grim faces.

President Nelson Mandela told a meeting of black tribal leaders Saturday he wanted to bring the white right into his national unity government to prevent further bloodshed.

Mr. Mandela said he would continue discussions with Afrikaner rightists who wanted a separate white homeland.

Mr. Mandela has offered to meet Mr. Terre Blanche but the AWB said no meeting could take place before all rightists had amnesty.

Germany wins World Cup opener on Klinsmann's goal

Bolivia's Etcheverry sent off

CHICAGO (AP) — Coach Bert Vogts said experience would count and it did. Germany began the defence of its World Cup title in sweltering heat Friday with a 1-0 victory over Bolivia in a game that also saw the first expulsion of the tournament.

The veteran German team, which had seven starters from the 11 that beat Argentina 1-0 in the 1990 final in Italy, exploited a dreadful defensive mistake by Bolivia and Jergen Klinsmann scored into an open net.

"We earned three points and we got an important victory," Vogts said after the match.

"We started well but we didn't use our chances in the first 20 minutes and later we became passive in the mid-field," he said.

Germany, seeking to become the first team to win four World Cup titles, also became the first defending champion to win the opening match since title-holders were given the honour of kicking off the tournament in 1974.

Klinsmann scored the only goal of the game in the 61st minute before 63,117 fans at Soldier Field, watched by President Clinton, German Chancellor Helmut Kohl and Bolivian President Gonzalo Sanchez de Lozada.

Captain Lothar Matthaeus, playing his fourth World Cup, began the decisive move by floating a long ball from the midline over the midfield that beat the Bolivian offside trap.

Bolivian goalkeeper Carlos Trucco raced out of his area and slipped as he went to challenge Thomas Haessler, who chested the ball sideways. Klinsmann collected the ball and rolled it 20 metres into an unguarded net.

"It was difficult to create chances against this team, and the pitch was also difficult," Klinsmann said. "It felt almost like rubber, they sprayed it with something. It was almost a goal by chance. Once I got the ball, there was almost nothing else I could do wrong."

"The weather was brutal and I am happy that we won the first match," he said after a game played in 32 Celsius (90 degree Fahrenheit) heat and 70 per cent humidity. "We practiced this move yesterday," Vogts said, although even he could not have predicted such an unusual finish.

After the goal, Germany controlled the pace and the game.

Bolivia, desperately seeking to come back, in the 79th minute brought on star striker Marco Etcheverry, who is coming off a long injury and was not judged fit enough to start the match.

But only four minutes after Etcheverry ran onto the field, Mexican referee Arturo Brizio Carter sent him off.

He chased a through ball but was beaten to the ball by Matthaeus, as he fell. Etcheverry appeared to aim a left foot kick at Matthaeus



German player Jergen Klinsmann (left) receives a yellow card from referee Arturo Brizio (2nd from right) as Bolivia's Julio Baldivieso (centre) looks back during the opening game of the World Cup at Soldier Field in Chicago (AFP photo).

and the referee immediately showed him the red card. Five other players were booked.

"The rules are being applied strictly and we'll have to watch out," Vogts said.

Bolivian coach Xahier Azkargorta said he thought the German goal came from offside position and that Haessler had handled the ball.

"I did not see how Etcheverry's red card can be justified. FIFA rules seem to be directed against the small (nations)," he said.

Etcheverry, returning after a seven-month absence after suffering several ligament damage, apologised to the Bolivian people.

"I failed them," he said.

Germany not proud, but happy with result

FRANKFURT (AP) — It is what Americans call "winning ugly." For German fans, there is a certain beauty in that, even if their country's 1-0 World Cup opening victory over Bolivia Friday was nothing to be proud of.

"As a friend of soccer I can understand why the Americans are not interested in the game. Ninety minutes, 22 players and only one goal. With basketball it's different," Heinz Remer said.

Remer, like millions of other Germans who watched Friday's game on television, was critical with a hint of approval over the result.

"As a German I wonder how we'll play against a stronger team. It was a typical nervous opening game and not a good measure of what could come."

Klaus Distelkamp, a Frankfurt, was mildly satisfied with the result but criticised the red card issued to Bolivian Marco Etcheverry for a foul in the 83rd minute.

"The red card was a joke. Etcheverry didn't deserve it. But because of the second half the win for us is in order. It was a little above average opening game, because they are usually not very good," Distelkamp said.

The game naturally had huge interest in Germany, and men were not the only ones watching and analysing

South Korea survives searing heat to snatch dramatic draw

DALLAS, Texas (AFP) — With only six minutes left South Korea drew on all their reserves in the sweltering heat of the Cotton Bowl to score twice and snatch a dramatic draw in their opening Group C World Cup match Friday.

Spain appeared to be on their way to an easy victory after a sizzling five minute spell early in the second half produced goals from Julio Salinas and Andoni Goikoetxea.

But their hopes of claiming three points melted in the torrid Texas humidity when first Hong Myung Bo and then Seo Jung Won found the back of the net.

Both South Korean manager Kim Ho and Spain's Javier Clemente agreed the heat had played a vital role in the outcome.

"Even two goals down and only six minutes to go I knew that with the heat out on the pitch it was still possible to draw or even win," said the 49-year-old Kim.

"We knew before the match that surviving the very high heat would be vital so we planned to be able to go the full 90 minutes and it paid off."

For Clemente, his side reduced to only 10 men after captain Miguel Angel Nadal was sent off in the 26th minute for bringing down Korean striker Ko Jong Woon, the heat proved fatal.

"It was too hot. The players were weakened. That plus the expulsion of Nadal cost us the match," said Clemente, who had brashly predicted a 5-0 victory for Spain.

Until Seo's goal in the final minute, South Korea's second-half jinx looked to have struck again when Salinas, his country's top scorer in the qualifying rounds, struck in the 50th minute.

Despite the fact that he never managed to start a game last season for Barcelona, Salinas showed why Clemente ignored criticism and picked him for his World Cup squad.

Getting inside South Korean defender Kim Pan Keun, Salinas sidestepped an inch perfect pass from Goikoetxea who had got free on the right.

Five minutes later it was Salinas again who wreaked havoc in the South Korea defence.

Unable to get off his shot just inside the area Salinas slipped the ball to Jose Caminero who had two shots blocked by a panic stricken Korean defence before he

lobbed the ball to Goikoetxea who headed into the right corner out of reach of the diving Choi In Young.

Suddenly, it looked like it was Korea who had 10 men instead of Spain.

But South Korea, who have now gone nine matches in World Cup finals without a win, refused to wilt.

With the possibility of hosting the 2002 World Cup the prize for a good performance here, South Korea began to push forward.

Their determination paid off six minutes before the end when a free-kick just outside the area from Hong Myung Bo deflected off the Spanish wall, sending Santiago Canizares the wrong way.

Five minutes later Seo Jung Won was free inside the area on the right. Seo made no mistake and stroked the ball into the net well out of reach of Canizares.

"It was a great result. I am very, very happy and delighted," said Chung Mong Joon, Korean Football Association president and the driving force behind South Korea's bid to win the 2002 World Cup.

"Now people can see that we are able to play for 90 minutes," he added.

South Korea created other chances to score but they were few and far between.

Only three minutes into the second half Noh Jung Woon found himself in the clear on the left and slipped the ball off to Ko Jeong Woon at the near post but Canizares, standing in for the banned Andoni Zubizarreta, managed to deflect the ball for a corner.

Both Hong and Hwang Sun Hong had chances in the first half, but each time Canizares proved too quick.



South Korean midfielder Seo Jung Won runs for jubilation after he scored his team's 2nd goal to tie the Spanish team at Cotton Bowl Friday (AFP photo).

Koreans shed nuclear worries, celebrate draw

SEOUL (AFP) — Nuclear tension was briefly forgotten in an outburst of jubilation here Saturday and President Kim Young-Sam praised South Korea's World Cup team when the pre-match underdogs drew 2-2 with Spain.

Seoul's streets were deserted during the usual morning rush hour as the game was telecast live, with com-

pany employees screaming encouragement in front of TV screens.

Kim called up team coach Kim Ho and said: "Your team's undaunted fighting spirit demonstrated the Korean people's potential and gave your countrymen an important lesson that determination will help overcome any difficulties."



ROSS PERFORMING: U.S. performer Diana Ross sings to the crowd gathered inside Chicago's Soldier Field Friday during the opening ceremonies for the 15th World Cup (AFP photo).

Dallas cheerleaders give leg-lifting opener

DALLAS (AP) — Donning their typical hot-pants, the Dallas Cowboy cheerleader girls were greeted with whoops and howls of approval in this city's World Cup opening ceremony at the Cotton Bowl Friday.

The half-hour ceremony was staged before the 6:30 p.m. (2230 GMT) kickoff to the first round game between Spain and South Korea.

The Dallas ceremony kicked off with the United States national anthem sung by the Texas Byns Choir which sparked an ear-deafening cheering roar from a near-packed stadium.

"Welcome to Dallas which is proud to join in celebrations opening the world's greatest sporting event: The World Cup," a voice-over

recording announced.

Native American, Korean, and Spanish flamenco-style dancers followed with brief performances as circular flags representing the 24 nations participating were displayed around the pitch with Texas' lone star flag dominating the centre circle.

Then the Dallas Cowboy cheerleader girls took centre stage dancing to the theme music of world popular television series "Dallas" which received wild cheering from the crowd.

The dancing continued against a backdrop of record-tops of famed songs such as "Deep in the Heart of Texas" and "The Yellow Rose of Texas."

"Enjoy the great city of Dallas and the World Cup in Dallas," the city's mayor Steve Bartlett told the crowd.

Star attraction, singer Tanya Tucker sang over a recording of country songs "It's Too Late" and "Texas When I Die," followed by a rendition of "Gloryland" by Lee Greenwood.

The 64,000-seat Cotton Bowl, the hallowed citadel of American football, lent itself perfectly to that other football — soccer — with the pitch and crowd facilities in top shape.

Clusters of South Korean fans clacking together their traditional music sticks vied with their Spanish counterparts, beating drums and chanting "Espana, Espana," around the arena.

The ceremony finished with a display of fireworks.

Saudi squad frustrate their own press corps

WASHINGTON (R) — Saudi Arabia's World Cup soccer squad frustrated their own press corps Friday by holding two closed training sessions and refusing to talk to any journalists.

Saudi reporters who had travelled to Washington for the team's opening Group F match with the Netherlands Monday said the media freeze-out was "normal, but getting worse."

One reporter said he had not spoken to any of the squad or their Argentine coach Jorge Solari for four days.

"It is very difficult to write any stories," he said. "I have to rely on my intuition... We thought it would be easier in Washington, but it is no different."

Requests from the media and from the world soccer body FIFA to open the doors and allow greater access to the coach and his Saudi players were to no avail Friday. FIFA spokesman Glen Kirtson said he had contacted the delegation and been told that it was impossible for the Saudi squad to change their current arrangements.

"Their media liaison man and general manager are both in Chicago," he said. "I have been told that no one with sufficient authority to consider approaching the Saudis to discuss this matter is available."

Soccer is a passion of Prince Faisal, who is passed president of youth welfare for the kingdom and the architect of Saudi Arabia's growth as a soccer nation over the last 40 years.

Virtually all decisions are taken by him, including some team selections and tactics. The post of Saudi soccer coach has not been a stable position in recent years. Jorge Solari only came into the job in February when Dutchman Leo Beenhakker was dismissed.

Beenhakker, a former Dutch national team and Real Madrid coach, had replaced Brazilian Jose Candido who was ousted last October after questioning an instruction from a prince to substitute a goalkeeper midway through a qualifying match.

Since then, the Saudi media have been kept at a distance from the squad and statements, or comments, have been few and far between. "We have little choice but to write what we can and to be careful not to be offensive," said the reporter.

Even with a promise that his name would not be used, the reporter declined to comment on a suggestion that it would be Prince Faisal, and not Solari, who will select the Saudi team for Monday's Group F meeting with the Netherlands.

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Three matches to be held today

Mexico hope passing game will topple physical Norway

Cameroon can finally put worries behind

LOS ANGELES, California (AFP) — Cameroon can finally put their worries behind them Sunday when they take the field against Sweden for their opening Group B match in the 1994 World Cup.

The Indomitable Lions, who became the first African nation to reach the World Cup quarter-finals with their stunning run in the 1990 finals, say they will not be thinking about federation politics or financial problems.

But manager Henri Michel of France admits the Swedes could prove a difficult puzzle to solve.

"Sweden is very difficult," he said. "They have played together such a long time. For this Sweden team, it is now or never."

The Swedes suffered a blow when experienced central-defender Jan Eriksson aggravated a right thigh injury in training and withdrew.

Swedish manager Tommy Svensson has called up Teddy Lucic, an under-21 international who has never appeared in the senior side.

"It was very unlucky that Eriksson had to leave the squad," Svensson said. "Lucic is one of the most talented players in Sweden. He is a skilled central defender with good speed and plays well in the air."

However, the 26-year-old will likely only be used as a back-up.

Svensson has two more experienced defenders at his disposal in Patrik Andersson and Joachim Bjorklund.

He said his team's organisation would prove vital against the exuberant Africans.

"I think we are difficult to score against," he said. "That is always good to have in a tournament like this."

The Swedes, who were only one of four teams to lose all their matches at Italia 90, are hoping to improve.

As well as their disciplined defence, they have the services of striker Martin Dahlin, who scored seven goals in nine qualifying matches, and effective Parma striker Tomas Brodin.

But Svensson said it would be a mistake to write off

Cameroon as a spent force.

"They are a very strong team," he said. "I don't think people understand how strong they are. They have had problems, but they are used to them. They are very well prepared."

Michel, who took over Cameroon Jan. 13, has been particularly appalled by the turmoil surrounding his new team, but he said the side was ready.

"We worked a lot," Michel said. "Maybe not as we would like — we had some injuries and the end of different championships kept some players out."

"I had to balance, and maybe we lost some time, but we should be ready."

Roger Milla, who captivated fans at the 1990 finals when he became the oldest player to score a World Cup goal, is back at the advanced age of 42.

Milla resumed training Thursday after resting his strained right thigh earlier in the week.

But, Milla, who was added to the squad after the intervention of Cameroon presi-

dent Paul Biya against the wishes of some players and despite the doubts of Michel, will not start against Sweden.

Cameroon launched their run to the quarter-finals in Italy with a stunning upset of defending champions Argentina in the tournament opener.

Michel says the first match will again set Cameroon's course.

He expects defenders Stephen Tatawa, who will likely wear the captain's armband, and Hans Agbo, along with striker Francois Omam-Biyik to play crucial roles.

WASHINGTON (R) — Mexico are pinning their hopes of topping a physically-superior Norway team on a combination of their own skilful passing game and the effects of the heat in Washington's opening World Cup Group E clash Sunday.

The Mexicans, more used to the high temperatures and humidity which have hit Washington this week, recognise they cannot compete with Norway's direct aerial approach and a classic clash of Latin American and north European soccer styles is in prospect.

"It should be a very interesting game from the tactical point of view," said Mexico's veteran striker Hugo Sanchez, 35, who has taken on the role of unofficial spokesman for the Central American squad from reclusive coach Miguel Mejia Barón.

"We feel we have the skill and technique to unsettle them, but we know we will have to work hard with the ball and to retain possession. I think we have an aggressive attack this time and we feel confident."

Sanchez, in his third World Cup, is likely to start the match at the Robert F. Kennedy Memorial Stadium on the substitutes' bench, while fellow-veteran Carlos Hermosillo leads the attack with Luis Roberto 'Zague' Alves, scorer of a record seven international goals against Martinique last year.

Norway, more used to the cool climate of Scandinavia than the sultry heat of Washington, prepared for the conditions by wearing plastic bags in training before travelling to their New Jersey base. They will arrive in Washington on Saturday.

"We should be good enough to take points from all three countries in our group," said Norway's coach Egil Olsen. "The impression we have from warm-up games is that Mexico are good — but not that good."

Olsen said Norway will not be compromising their direct, physical style of play because of the heat. "It will be difficult for us, but it is too late for us to change our style. We cannot do anything about it."

Although this will be only Norway's second match in a World Cup finals series and their first since losing 2-1 to Italy in 1938, they will not lack confidence, having beaten such established soccer powers as the Netherlands, England and Poland during their successful qualifying campaign.

Olsen has two slight injury doubts surrounding goalkeeper Erik Thorstvedt and forward Jostein Flo.

Mexico, with no injury problems, will be missing midfielder Alberto Garcia Aspe, a skilful left footed playmaker, through suspension.

Probable teams:

Mexico: 1-Jorge Campos 21-Raul Quiroz, 2-Claudio Suarez, 3-Juan Ramirez Peralta, 5-Ramon Ramirez 15-Misael Espinosa, 4-Ignacio Ambriz, 14-Joaquin del Olmo, 10-Luis Garcia 7-Carlos Hermosillo, 11-Luis Roberto 'Zague' Alves.

Norway: 1-Erik Thorstvedt 20-Henning Berg, 4-Rune Bratseth, 3-Erlend Johnsen, 5-Stig Inge Bjornebye 22-Lars Bohinen, 10-Kjetil Rekdal, 7-Erik Mykland, 11-Jahn Ivar Jakobsen 6-Jostein Flo, 11-Jan Aage Fjortoft. Referee: Sandor Puhl (Hungary)

U.S., Switzerland draw 1-1

PONTIAC, Mich. (AP) — Two free-kick goals gave the United States and Switzerland a 1-1 tie in a Group A game Saturday that marked impressive progress for the U.S. national soccer team.

Under pressure to vindicate the choice of its country for the world's most popular sports event, the U.S. team was vastly improved over the squad that lost its 1990 opener against Czechoslovakia 5-1.

For the United States, it was the first point in World Cup finals since 1950, for Switzerland, it was the first since it hosted the 1954 championship.

It was also a first for World Cup soccer, the two teams played indoors at the Pontiac Silverdome Stadium in sweltering 34-degree Celsius (93 Fahrenheit).

Switzerland, which was missing high scorer Adrian Knaup with an ankle injury, went

ahead at 40 minutes on George Bregy's free kick from the edge of the penalty area.

But Eric Wynalda struck back for the Americans on a 45th-minute free kick, tying the game at a psychologically perfect time — immediately before the teams headed off for halftime.

The Americans got near the goal twice in the first 10 minutes, but Tab Ramos slipped with the ball in the penalty area and speedy striker Ernie Stewart sent an easy shot into the hands of Swiss keeper Marco Pascolo.

Switzerland took control of the match midway through the first half, led by tireless set-ups from playmaker Alain Sutter.

But Alexi Lalas and the U.S. defence virtually shut down striker Stephane Chapuisat.

Bregy had the first scoring chance on a Swiss attack, his

spinning flat shot from 20 metres heading just inside the post before Tony Meola dove to grab it.

Thomas Dooley's tackle from behind that brought down Sutter on the edge of the area set up Switzerland's go-ahead goal.

Bregy, a 36-year-old free kick specialist, curled the shot over the U.S. defensive wall and into the far corner of the net, catching Meola flat-footed of the line.

Wynalda's 25-metre blast for the 1-1 was even more impressive, leaving Pascolo no chance as it grazed the underside of the crossbar heading into the top left corner.

Wynalda, one of several U.S. players with foreign experience, has boosted his skills in Bundesliga. He was the first U.S. player to break into the German first division with FC Saarbrücken in 1992-93.

Knicks top Rockets, take lead

NEW YORK (AP) — A revived Patrick Ewing kept New York in the game, then John Starks and Derek Harper won it. And the Knicks moved a win away from their first National Basketball Association (NBA) title in 21 years.

New York blew a 13-point, third-quarter lead but rallied with an 11-1 run in the last three minutes for a 91-84 victory Friday night and a 3-2 lead over the Houston Rockets in the NBA finals.

New York can become the fifth team in six years to win the title on the road Sunday night in Houston. A seventh game, if necessary, would be there Wednesday night.

The Rockets rallied from a 56-43 deficit with a 22-5 spurt that gave them a 65-61 lead two minutes into the fourth quarter. But Ewing, who had 13 of the Knicks' first 26 points in the second half, got

six straight New York points to tie the game at 69 with 8:02 to play.

Ewing had 25 points, 12 rebounds and eight blocks for the Knicks, who made 16 of 40 foul shots. Hakeem Olajuwon had 27 points for the Rockets.

With the Rockets on top 79-76, Starks hit a basket with 4:09 to play. Vernon Maxwell's free throw gave Houston an 80-78 lead. But then Starks hit a 3-pointer. Harper followed with two foul shots and a lead pass to Anthony Mason for a dunk that put the Knicks in front 85-80 with 1:25 to play.

With 45 seconds left and a chance to pull within four, Olajuwon missed a short baseline jumper and the Rockets missed three consecutive tip-in attempts. After the Knicks won a jump ball, Mason made two foul shots with 28.8 seconds left to

wrap up the victory.

It was the first time either team won two straight games in the series. It was the first time neither team reached 100 points in any of the first five finals games since the introduction of the shot clock in 1954-55.

And both teams had a shot at records for fewest points per game in a six-game series (now 86.7) and a seven-game series (now 88.6).

The Rockets are 8-3 at home in the playoffs, while New York is 3-7 on the road. But four of the last five championships were won on the road. And nine of the last 10 teams to take 3-2 leads captured the title. Eight of those series ended in six games.

New York pushed the lead to 56-43 with 6:51 left in the third quarter. Then the Rockets charged back, outscoring the Knicks 18-5 the rest of the quarter and tying the score at 61.

Weber makes Belgium's point against Morocco

ORLANDO, Florida (AFP) — All eyes will be on Croatian-born striker Josip Weber when Belgium open their World Cup campaign against Morocco Sunday.

Belgium coach Paul van Himst had long lamented his side's lack of goals and has greeted Weber's prolific entry onto the international scene as being a "gift from heaven."

Weber, granted Belgian citizenship in March, responded to his international call-up with five goals in a record 9-0 win over Zambia June 4 and that performance has been followed by four more goals in the build-up to the finals.

Weber has been Belgium's top league scorer for the past three seasons, scoring 135 goals in all for Cercle Bruges in six campaigns.

If he can translate that form to the World Cup stage then the Belgians, who face Morocco without their suspended defender Philippe Albert, can hope to match their performance of 1986

when they reached the quarter-finals.

At the outset Morocco will undoubtedly attempt a containing job. Coach Abdellah Blinda accepts their underdog role.

"Of course the Belgians are superior to us on paper. But we have prepared right down to the very last detail and given that most of our squad play in Europe there is no reason for us to feel any complex," he said.

With a favourable draw having grouped them with Saudi Arabia, Morocco may be able to steal one of the places for best third-place finishers. That would give them the chance to emulate the performance of their 1986 team who lost only narrowly to eventual finalists Germany at that stage.

The sides face the daunting prospect of opening the Group F game in the middle of the day, guaranteeing that they will be playing at the Citrus Bowl under a sun at its most powerful and in temperatures of nearly 40C.

'Don't write me off,' says Becker as bookmakers back 're-Pete'

LONDON (AFP) — World number-one Pete Sampras and Steffi Graf will be the hottest favourites in years to retain their Wimbledon titles when the 1994 championships get underway here Monday.

British bookmakers made Steffi Graf, winner of four of her last five Grand Slam tournaments, an overwhelming favourite to win the women's title.

Despite her recent semi-final defeat in the French Open by teenage rival Mary Pierce. And Sampras, finalist at Queen's last weekend where he went down to only his fifth defeat in 54 matches when he lost to fellow-American Todd Martin, is quoted as a one-sided 11 to 10.

But three-times champion Boris Becker, who became the youngest-ever player to win the men's title at the age of 17 years and 227 days back in 1985, sounded an ominous warning Friday.

The German, now 26, has been made a 16 to one outsider. "I think the bookmakers are being a little too generous," said the German, adding: "Put your money on me. I am a good bet."

Becker, who has been carefully trying to rebuild a career in decline under new coach Nick Bollettieri since becoming a father at the start of the year, admitted that he was again enjoying his tennis. "I have realised there is life after tennis," he smiled, adding: "And I am enjoying playing much more. It is like

a hobby to me now."

Becker, who has been working hard to compensate for a marked lack of power in his serving in recent months, opens his eleventh campaign on the All England courts against experienced American David Wheaton.

Promoted to seventh in the seedings despite his world ranking of tenth, the red-haired German is scheduled for a potentially explosive quarter-final showdown with compatriot and second-seed Michael Stich — the 1991 champion.

But that does not worry Becker.

"I believe I am relaxed and confident enough to win here again. Although I have been referred to as a star of yesterday, I am feeling good. I hope to show these people how wrong they are," he said.

After his eleventh-hour withdrawal from the French Open because of injury, Becker's Wimbledon build-up looked in tatters when he lost early to Britain's Jeremy Bates at the Stella Artois Tournament.

"When I played that match I hadn't had much grass court practice. Rain and the fact that a good friend of mine got married took two extra days out of my preparations."

"But I have had plenty of good solid practice since then. Playing in the Vauxhall Cup this week is also helping to tone me up and I was pleased with my performance

against Todd Martin today," he said after narrowly losing an entertaining three-setter to the 1.98m American.

"I am getting a little bit excited now with Wimbledon coming up. There is a real buzz in the air as far as I am concerned."

Other players hoping to end Sampras' reign include Andre Agassi, who despite an up-and-down season since his return from a wrist injury, remains one of the most exciting players on the tour. "You cannot put a price on the Wimbledon title," said Agassi, who triumphed here two years ago.

"It is the biggest prize in tennis and I believe grass is my best surface."

Stefan Edberg is another player who will be especially motivated for this year's tournament.

At 28, the classy Swede is all too aware that there will not be many more chances to win the world's most famous event for a third time.

Edberg, winner in 1988 and 1990 and like Becker now a father, would be a popular champion. But he faces a difficult draw.

Despite the big odds on Sampras, compatriot and former world number-one Jim Courier is currently breezing confidence again as well as continuing to cultivate his new "nice guy" image.

Since avenging his loss in last year's final by beating Sampras at Roland Garros earlier this month, the fifth-

seeded Courier has been looking increasingly sharp. He says he is convinced he will cause an upset.

Goran Ivanisevic has the sort of game with which he could repeat and even better his 1992 runners-up berth. But for that the big-serving Croatian, who fired down a record 206 aces during the 1992 championships, will need to keep his volatile personality under strict control.

Martin could also go all the way. The gentle giant from Illinois may not excite with his straightforward serve-and-volley tennis but it can be deadly effective — as he proved by winning Queens.

In the women's event, with the continuing absence of Monica Seles who hasn't played since being stabbed on court in Hamburg 14 months ago it is difficult to see who can upset Graf.

Her main rivals were expected to be 19-year-old Mary Pierce of France or 37-year-old Martina Navratilova, who will be making her last appearance at the championships.

Both, however, failed to post impressive form in the pre-Wimbledon event at Eastbourne.

Navratilova, playing at Wimbledon for the 22nd consecutive year and bidding to improve on her record of nine tournament victories, failed badly at Eastbourne when she was beaten in three sets by fellow-American Meredith McGrath in the



Boris Becker

quarter-finals Thursday.

Meanwhile Pierce crashed to unknown 15-year-old Czech-born Ludmila Novotna... in the junior event.

Arantxa Sanchez, fresh from her French Open success, can be relied upon to battle her way through to the later stages despite the fact that grass is the Spaniard's least-effective surface. But she is not really seen as a potential champion.

The same but even more so goes for her compatriot and third-seed Conchita Martinez.

Brenda Scholtz of the Netherlands has the biggest serve in women's tennis but

remains too unpredictable to be a serious title hope.

And last year's finalist and fifth-seed Jana Novotna has nagging shoulder injury to contend with.

But perhaps there will be a fairy-tale ending for Gabriela Sabatini. The Argentinean, who has plunged down the rankings to tenth and who has been written out of the script at Wimbledon where her wristy top-spin baseline tennis leaves her vulnerable, has been a runner-up eleven times since she won her last title at the 1992 Italian Open.

Perhaps this time she will prove the critics wrong and go one step further.

GOREN BRIDGE

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COUNTING IS EASY

Neither vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♠ 7
♥ 3
♦ K 9 5 4
♣ 10 8 7

WEST
♠ 4 3 2
♥ Q 10 8 2
♦ Q 6 5 2
♣ 6

EAST
♠ A J 10
♥ K 9 5 4
♦ 7
♣ 5 4 3 2

SOUTH
♠ Q 6 6
♥ A 6
♦ A J 10 6
♣ A K Q J

The bidding:
South West North East
2 NT Pass 2 NT Pass

Pass Pass

Opening lead: Two of ♣

Why do experts tend to misguess less often than mere mortals? They know how to make use of every morsel of information to obtain a picture of the enemy holding, no matter how flimsy.

North-South were using a 21-22 point range to open two no trump, a far more effective range than the old 22-24. However, the final contract would have reached no matter what methods North-South were

employing. West led the deuce of hearts, East put up the king and declarer's first problem was whether or not to hold up the ace. Winning had two things going for it. First, the holdup would only be effective against a 7-2 heart distribution, unlikely in view of the opening lead. Secondly, winning the ace would leave the position of the jack unclear to one defender.

After taking the ace of hearts, declarer must run eight tricks without surrendering the lead, since the opponents will have at least four heart tricks and the ace of spades to cash. To accomplish that, declarer must collect four diamond tricks.

That question cannot be answered until South knows more about the hands. The first stage is to cash out clubs. West discards three spades. What now?

Since defenders tend to lead their longest suit against no trump and since the lead almost surely marks West with only four hearts, West's most likely pattern is 4-4-4-1. Hence it is a simple matter to cash the ace of diamonds and, when the queen doesn't fall, run the jack. Making three-odd.

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Pakistani Women's Association Raffle Results

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0163	0934
0842	0918
0160	0845
0804	0815
0165	0188

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	PHILADELPHIA	PLAZA	CONCORD	AMMOUN THEATRE	Nabil Al Mashini Theatre	AHLAN THEATRE
T O D A Y	Tom Cruise & Holly Hunter in The Firm Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 9:00	Farouq Al Fishawi/Fifi Abdo in The Night of Murder (ARABIC) Shows: 12:30, 3:15, 5:00, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30	CONCORD '1' LOVER BOY Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30 CONCORD '2' THE GETAWAY Shows: 12:30, 3:45, 6:00, 8:15, 10:15	Soon the new play!!!	Today & Everyday Abu Awwad in social comedy "PUNCTURED BAG"	Present their play: WHAT A PEACE! (Salam Ya Salam) Daily at 8:30 p.m. The theatre is closed on Tuesdays.

PLO chooses handicapped centre for headquarters

Jericho (AP) — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) has decided to commandeer a long-awaited old age home and handicapped centre here to house the headquarters of Yasser Arafat's self-rule administration.

The decision brought dismay to 40 elderly and handicapped patients and the small staff who must remain in squalid barracks next to the nearly-completed building of sandstone and marble.

It also highlighted some Palestinians' concern that the hardships of Israeli occupation might be giving way to somewhat authoritarian rule by fellow Arabs.

"We fought the Israelis for years to get the approval to construct a well-equipped house," said Abdul Aziz Mahmoud, the supervising nurse at the facility. "And now when it is almost completed, Palestinian officials visited the site a few times and decided to take it."

PLO officials said the decision last week was a temporary consequence of financial and logistic problems plaguing the transition to self-rule, which began in the Gaza Strip and Jericho last month and is later to spread to other parts of the West Bank.

They promised a different site would be found in six months.

But many do not believe them, noting officials have

ordered a wall built around the new building that would block the view of the unsightly barracks and their handicapped residents.

The facility, housing a mix of physically and mentally handicapped, is known throughout the West Bank simply as the disabled centre.

"We are facing a lot of problems in establishing the offices for the Palestinian authority," Saeb Erekat, minister for municipal affairs in the 24-member self-rule authority, told the Associated Press.

He said six ministries, including Arafat's equivalent of the prime ministry, could be housed in the building, which many consider one of the nicest in the sleepy oasis that is becoming the capital of self-rule.

"We have promised them to renovate their place and help them," Mr. Erekat said of the barracks' residents. "They will not be removed."

He said the Palestinians received a pledge of \$500,000 from the Spanish government to start building 50 new offices for the self-rule government throughout Jericho. Mr. Arafat, who has yet to set the date for his arrival, is expected to bring up to 1,000 PLO bureaucrats with him in transferring his Tunis headquarters to Jericho.

The loss of the new structure comes as a severe blow to the residents of the three barracks, whose asbestos

roofs make them broiling hot in the 120-degree summer temperatures and cold in winter.

Residents live five to a room and there is not enough refrigeration space to keep meals on hand.

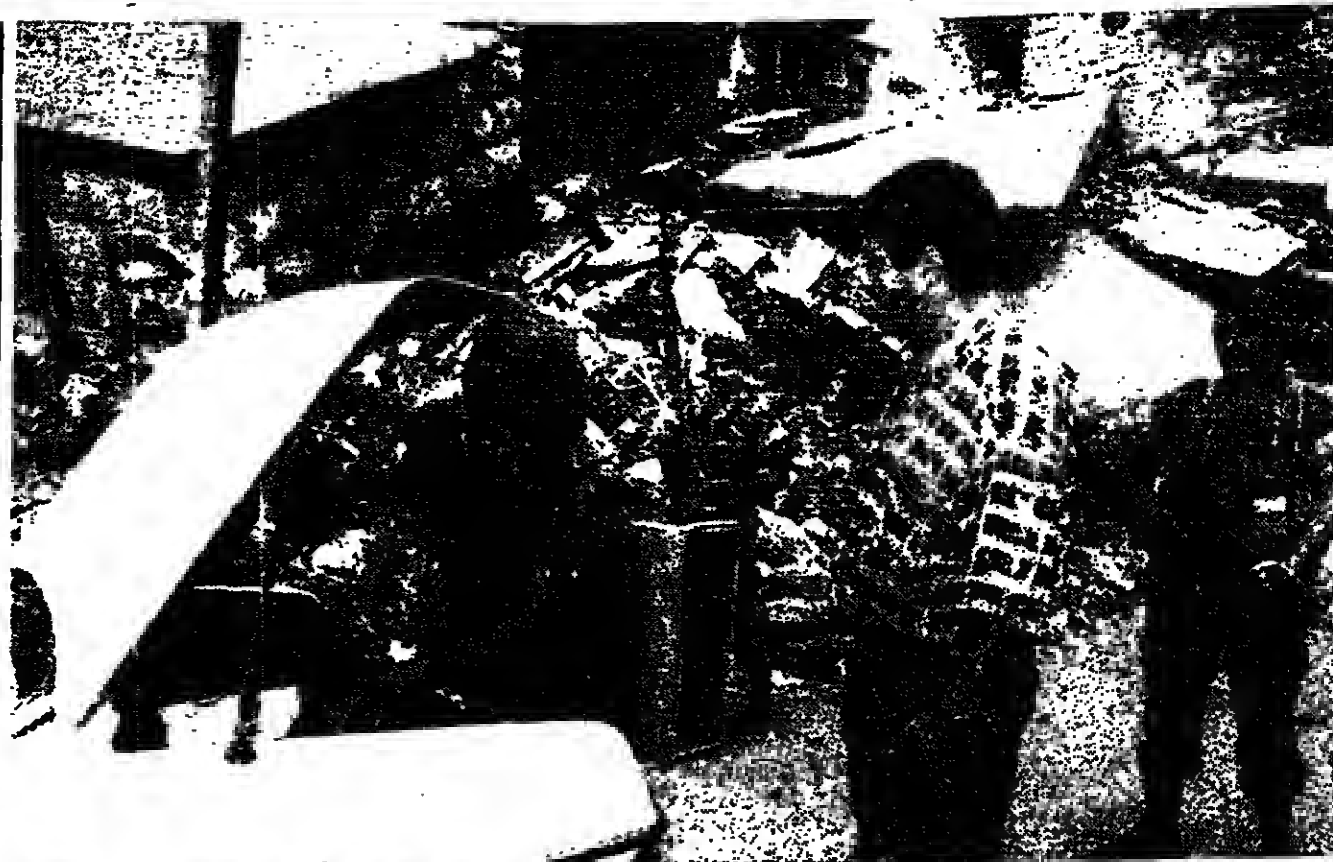
For the past year-and-a-half the main topic of conversation has been the new building rising less than 50 metres away. One patient who could not walk would haul himself on his hands to look at it.

European nations donated \$1.5 million for the 2,400-square-metre building, which could have housed over 100. Workmen now busy subdividing it into offices expressed disappointment that their labours will not benefit the needy.

"We built it as a shelter of the handicapped and not for the Palestinian national authority," said electric contractor Ragheb Arafah. "It will not be fair to take it and not provide an alternative place," he added.

Abdul Halim Mahmoud, 79, and nearly sightless, has lived in the centre for 23 years.

The Israelis "told us we would get a new building," said Mr. Mahmoud. "But when self-rule came, they said it was the PLO building. We said we only seek help from God."



Lebanese Army soldiers check cars in front of a destroyed house in the mountain area east of Beirut Saturday. Thousands of Lebanese troops are deployed in the area to

guarantee the return of the Christians expelled from their villages 11 years ago by Druze militias (AFP photo)

Army deploys in Shouf mountains

ALEY, Lebanon (Agencies) — Some 8,000 troops fanned across the Druze hinterland in the Shouf mountains above Beirut Saturday to restore government authority eroded during the 1975-1990 civil war.

Uprooting Druze women, waving white handkerchiefs from balconies and showered the tanks and armoured personnel carriers with rice and rosewater, the traditional, Lebanese welcome.

The oneposited deployment was more a symbolic gesture by Prime Minister Rafik Hariri's government to demonstrate an evenhandedness in his dealings with Christians and Muslims than to quell any trouble.

Troops from the army's 3rd and 10th brigades took up positions and erected checkpoints in 32 Druze towns. They will escort and protect Christian returnees once their convoys begin to stream back, an army communiqué said. It listed no timetable.

Cheering crowds quickly formed around military checkpoints in Aley, the largest town in the Shouf, 20 kilometres southeast of the capital.

"I'm happily willing to be stopped and searched by our soldiers," Sami Hamdan, 37, a shopkeeper told the Associated Press. "It's now the legitimacy. No more lawlessness. No more crazy militiamen."

The Shouf was the scene of savage fighting during the war. But it has been calm since the end of the conflict, in which 150,000 people were killed and 100,000 maimed.

There has been a military presence in the mountains since May 1991, when most militias were disbanded and the government began reinstating its authority.

Officially, Mr. Hariri, a Sunni Muslim, sent in the army Saturday to ensure that Christian refugees who fled or were driven out of the Shouf during the war can return to their former homes.

The government is striving to resettle the estimated 450,000 people on both sides who were displaced by the conflict. Officials say some 37,000 of the 76,000 Christians who fled the Shouf and nearby regions have already returned.

"Your mission is to help

restore normal life in the region and establish a civilised model of peaceful coexistence," army commander General Emile Lahoud told his troops in an address as the columns rolled into the Shouf at first light.

"Spare no effort to help returning refugees. I'm certain you are aware that civil peace will not be solid unless all traces of the civil war are obliterated," he said.

The deployment will take three days to complete, the sources said.

The army said that the deployment, the first major one since 1991, was aimed at paving the way for the return of hundreds of thousands of people forced from their villages during the civil war. It was also to reassure the few thousand who have already returned.

An estimated 450,000 people left their homes during the civil war fighting. Most of them were Christians, displaced from the Shouf after the fierce battles of the 1983 "mountain war" when Druze militiamen seized control of Christian-held areas there.

The fighting resulted in massacres and the levelling of villages by both sides.

"The aim of the operation is to create the suitable security climate to pave the way for the return of normal life through the return of the displaced and coexistence, one of the main pillars of reconciliation," the army said.

Officials of the Ministry of the Displaced People, headed by former Druze warlord Walid Junblatt, say two main obstacles facing the return of the displaced are insufficient security and lack of money to rebuild their homes and the infrastructure.

Many officials argue there can be no real peace in Lebanon until those who fled have been able to return.

After the civil war ended, troops fanned out into several areas of the country in a bid to stamp state authority and put an end to the militias' rule of the gun.

The 40,000-strong Lebanese army is aided by some 35,000 Syrian troops deployed over two-thirds of Lebanon.

COLUMN

T-shirt cashes in on flogging of American youth

SINGAPORE (AP) — "Spare the rod and spoil the child" is the message on the front of a T-shirt that went on sale, designed to cash in on publicity surrounding an American teenager who was lashed for vandalising cars. The back of the \$2.50 Singapore dollar (\$15) shirt lists the crimes for which flogging is the penalty. It was selling briskly, according to one retailer, Michael Fay, 19, who gets out of prison Tuesday, received four lashes of a rattan cane, a fine and more than 11 weeks in jail. The promoters say they plan to offer a coffee mug with the same design as the T-shirt and a miniature rattan key chain.

Judge jailed for passing 'unjust' death sentences

BERLIN (AFP) — A former East German judge was sentenced Friday to three and a half years in prison for passing "unjust" death sentences on prisoners in the old communist East Germany, judicial sources said. Hans Reinhardt, 73, was given the maximum possible penalty for passing the death sentences against the regime's political opponents and attempted emigrants. The former judge was accused of passing the death penalty against two men accused in 1956 of spying for the West. The prosecution said the penalty had been used for propaganda purposes. The two men were finally pardoned. Four other people were executed, however, on judgements given by Judge Reinhardt. His sentencing was "arbitrary and designed to get rid of political adversaries," the court President Daniela Solin-Stojanovic said. The court acknowledged reservations expressed by Judge Reinhardt in passing the sentences and the regret he has since expressed.

Singapore cuts caning sentence of youth

SINGAPORE (R) — The Singapore government said Saturday it would cut the vandalism caning sentence for a Hong Kong youth in the latest chapter of a nine-month-old case that has seen the island republic's tough laws thrust into the international spotlight. Shui Chi Ho, 17, was convicted of four vandalism charges in April for the same series of incidents that saw the American teenager Michael Fay caned last month. The government has formally advised President Ong Teng Cheong to reduce Shui's sentence to six strokes of the rattan cane from 12 strokes and reduce the prison term he is currently serving to six months from eight months. Fay is also currently serving a four-month prison term but is widely expected to be released Tuesday, June 21. The Singapore government said the cut in Shui's sentence was in line with its decision to consider reductions in the punishment of any other persons involved in the same episode of vandalism as Fay, whose sentence was reduced to four strokes from six after pleas for clemency from U.S. President Bill Clinton.

China to pay whistle-blowers on corruption

BEIJING (AP) — China issued orders to reward people who inform on corruption and to protect them from revenge attacks. The orders form part of an official drive against graft, which has become endemic in Chinese government and business because of the lack of government accountability or an independent media. Anger over official corruption spurred many ordinary Chinese to join student-led pro-democracy protests in 1989, and the government fears unrest could erupt again if corruption continues unchecked. Already, 13 informers have been promised rewards totalling 119,000 yuan (\$13,840) under the orders issued Friday by China's top anti-graft body, the Supreme People's Procuratorate, the official Xinhua News Agency said.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Kuwaiti teenager kills mother, lover

KUWAIT (R) — A Kuwaiti teenager killed his mother and her lover after catching them together in her bedroom, a newspaper reported on Saturday. "A 16-year-old boy shot and then stabbed his own mother and a male friend of hers to death when he found them in her bedroom," said the English-language Arab Times. The teenager turned himself in to the nearest police station after the murder, the paper said. It gave no further details.

Veteran AP newsman Rizkallah dies

CAIRO (AP) — Sami Rizkallah, who retired last year after 25 years as an Associated Press newsman covering the turbulent Middle East, died early Saturday after emergency surgery. He was 66. Family members said Rizkallah had been in failing health since suffering liver failure two months ago. He was stricken in the port city of Alexandria and died after emergency surgery to staunch internal bleeding. Rizkallah joined the AP in 1966 after 13 years with United Press International. He was the night supervisor in the AP's Cairo bureau for much of his AP career. The era included two Middle Eastern wars, the death of President Gamal Abdul Nasser, the trip to occupied Jerusalem by Abdul Nasser's successor Anwar Sadat, Sadat's peace treaty with Israel and his assassination by extremists, and the rise of an extremist threat to Egypt in the 1980s. Rizkallah is survived by his wife Marcelle, a son and twin daughters. The funeral was Saturday.

Arabs, Israelis stage mini-concert

TABA, Egypt (R) — An Israeli strummed Arabic songs on his lute while Egyptians and Palestinians sang along. Arabic, English and Hebrew filled the air as businessmen were exchanged and addresses swapped. The impromptu concert, staged by Israeli lute player Yair Dalal in a hotel lobby in the Red Sea resort of Taba on Friday night, may have been small compared to British rock star Peter Dinklage's plans for a 10-hour music extravaganza. But when Gabriel's show, intended to be a celebration of Middle East peace featuring Arab, Israeli, African and European performers, was cancelled by Egyptian officials on security grounds, the music lovers had little choice. "I came to Taba to meet Peter Gabriel and to sing for peace," said Mr. Dalal, who recorded a song called Zaman Al Salam (time for peace) and cooperated with many Palestinian singers in Israel. Gabriel's concert, which the rock star said was his way of supporting the Arab-Israeli peace process by gathering Arab and Israeli musicians and fans, was to have taken place in Taba later on Saturday. After the ban it was moved a few kilometres across the border to the Israeli port of Eilat.

Leading Cairo lawyer on hunger strike

CAIRO (R) — The head of the Cairo lawyers' syndicate, Abdul Aziz Mohammad, has gone on hunger strike in protest at the detention of his colleagues, a senior lawyer said on Saturday. Ahmad Saif Al Islam Al Banna said Mr. Mohammad would continue his fast until the lawyers were freed and Egyptian authorities released a report on the death of a fundamentalist lawyer who died in police custody last month. Mr. Banna said Mr. Mohammad, a 59-year-old diabetic, would sit out his hunger strike in the offices of the lawyers' syndicate. Seventeen lawyers are still held by security forces for their role in a March protest over the death of Abdul Harith Madani, an Islamist lawyer, who died on April 27, one day after police arrested him at his office in Cairo.

Greeks accuse Turks of setting fire

NICOSIA (AP) — Authorities Saturday accused Turkish occupiers of setting fire to Varosha, the abandoned Greek Cypriot sector of Famagusta, a resort town Turkey holds on this divided island's coast. Authorities urged the United Nations to force the occupiers to abide by U.N. recommendations and withdraw. Greek Cypriot newspapers suggested Turkish occupiers set the blazes in Varosha, which began in several spots simultaneously Thursday, to destroy Greek Cypriot properties in advance of the possible return of their owners. The fires destroyed two to three square kilometres of mostly empty fields, plus an unknown number of empty homes before being rekindled by strong winds Friday, said Andreas Poyouros, Famagusta's Greek Cypriot mayor in absentia. Greek Cypriots say that the Turks did too little to try to douse the flames Thursday, but that they moved in to combat the fire Friday. In a protest to the U.N. Security Council, Mr. Poyouros claimed the fires were started deliberately and asked that Turkey be made to implement U.N. resolutions that would return Varosha to the 60,000 Greek Cypriots forced to flee when Turkey invaded in 1974.

Algerian human rights chief murdered

TUNIS (R) — Suspected Muslim fundamentalists, in a daylight attack in central Algiers on Saturday, killed Youssef Fathallah, the head of one of Algeria's human rights groups.

State radio, monitored in Tunis, said Fathallah, who was also a lawyer, was shot dead inside his office in the Emir Abdel Kader district, one of the busiest commercial areas in the Algerian capital.

The Algerian League of Human Rights is one of the few such groups in the country whose security forces have been battling armed Muslim militants for the past two and a half years.

Fathallah's organisation was considered to be closer to the authorities than the other rights group, the Algerian League for the Defence of Human Rights.

Fathallah, 64, was at least the fourth lawyer to be killed since April 17.

The radio, reporting another attack, said that a family of three was killed inside their home in Ain Delfa province, some 120 kilometres southwest of Algiers.

The three were a 73-year-old man, his wife, and their son, aged 30.

The radio said the killing took place after that of another family on Friday, a reference to the murder of a retired gendarme's nine-year-old daughter, his wife, and son, 23, by unidentified assailants who slit their throats.

The former gendarme, another son and his eight-year-old daughter were also slashed in the throat but survived, Algeria's official news agency APS said.

Their house, in Al Hachimia, in Bouira province, 90 kilometres southeast of the capital Algiers, was located just 50 metres from the local gendarmerie and 100 from a military barracks.

Many members of Algeria's security forces, and some of their relatives, have previously been murdered in attacks usually blamed by officials on Muslim fundamentalists.

Algerian security forces have been battling the armed militants since the authorities in January 1992 cancelled a general election which the fundamentalists were poised to win.

Fathallah, a retired lawyer, was elected head of the Human Rights League in 1991. The independent association has criticised abuses by both sides in the two-year conflict pitting Muslim fundamentalist insurgents against security forces of the army-backed government.

World Bank affirms support for Jordan

(Continued from page 1)

tions. "I leave it to your imagination," he told the questioners.

The World Bank is also extending credit to Jordan to revamp some of the key sectors of the economy such as water and energy and is considering a loan for the communications sector, he said.

At a different point, he said Jordan's focus should be on the private sector to stimulate export-led economic growth and greater emphasis on sectoral reforms.

At the same time, a recommendation in this year's World Development Report that developing countries would be better off shifting the burden of infrastructure building and services to the private sector cannot be considered as "an unshaded ... unambiguous statement," given the peculiarities of individual countries and economies, Mr. Chopra said (a summary of the World Bank report will be published in tomorrow's issue of the Jordan Times).

Following the speeches and debate, Dr. Khatib presented token gifts to Mr. Chopra as well as the president and director-general of the World Bank in appreciation of the international body's help to Jordan.

Earlier in the day, Mr. Chopra and senior World Bank officials accompanying him held talks with Upper House of Parliament (Senate) Speaker Ahmad Al Lawzi and some members of the Senate as well as the chairman and members of the Financial Committee of the Lower House.

The key theme for discussions during the meetings was Jordan's economic situation and the Kingdom's efforts to address problems in coordination with the World Bank and the IMF.

Nashashibi heads for Jericho to set up 'finance ministry'

By Mariam M. Shahin
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Mohammad Zuhdi Nashashibi, who holds the finance portfolio in the Palestinian National Authority (PNA), goes to Jericho today to set up the first of 20 PNA government ministries.

"I will go to Jericho to set up the Palestinian financial authority," said Mr. Nashashibi on Saturday.

The Palestinian "finance minister" will spend five days in Jericho "setting up" the ministry ahead of a June 29 meeting of the Palestinian Economic Council for Development and Reconstruction (PECDAR).

The PECDAR meeting will convene to discuss the implementation of projects and coordination of donor community and World Bank grants and loans to the self-rule areas.

The implementation of an infrastructure programme will begin after the PECDAR meeting, Mr. Nashashibi said.

The World Bank seed money is \$50 million in the first three years of self rule on Jericho and Gaza.

Thirty million dollars of the \$50 million will be spent in the Gaza Strip on the implementation of infrastructure projects. An additional \$20 million is to be used for a second phase of infrastruc-

ture projects also in Gaza.

A total of \$1.2 billion from donors is expected to be granted to projects in the self-rule areas not later than the third year of the self-rule period of five years.

According to Mr. Nashashibi, priority for infrastructure projects is as follows: transport, energy, wastewater treatment, housing, telecommunications, education, health, industry, and central administration.

Part of the \$1.2 billion, \$74 million, is to go to funding the infrastructure and the running of the central administration, supporting non-governmental organisations, technical assistance programmes, institution building, municipalities, feasibility studies and policy studies.

An additional \$1.2 billion is being pledged by donors for the last two years of the interim self-rule period.

Initially \$492 million will go to rebuilding the Gaza infrastructure and \$708 million will go to rebuilding the infrastructure of the West Bank.

Mr. Nashashibi explained that "donor money is never handed over (in cash), it comes through the funding of projects."

PECDAR has a special account to which funds are fed directly "per project," Mr. Nashashibi added.

The projects for Gaza have already been prioritised.

"The first Gaza project is water treatment and roads and then the off-shore port."

PECDAR has already come to an agreement with the Dutch, French and Italian governments on funding and construction of the floating port for Gaza.

The floating port feasibility study was completed by a Dutch company who also paid for it.

The Italian and French will be participating in the building of the floating port and have agreed to finance a portion of this construction which will cover the land section of the construction. The floating port consists of land and water sections.

Mr. Nashashibi also said that contrary to Israeli contentions the Palestinians will have two "airports" in Gaza and Jericho.

A French company is being contracted to "build runways with appropriate support facilities."

"There will be a civil aviation director and a director of airlines," he added.

Mr. Nashashibi is the second cabinet minister, after Nabil Shaath, of the Palestinian National Authority from outside the occupied territories to enter the Jericho and Gaza self-rule areas and take up his duties as a government minister.

independent state.

Last December, the two groups joined hands with other Marxist factions and Muslim fundamentalists in Syria and formed a hard-line alliance aimed at torpedoing the accord, which envisages partial Palestinian self-rule.

The new list of returnees is the seventh large batch of Palestinians to be allowed to return to their homeland since the beginning of the peace process, and the largest. Israel has so far allowed about 200 Palestinians exiled for decades to be repatriated.

The PLO says that more than 2,000 Palestinians have been expelled by Israel since 1967.

Arafat will not move without funds

(Continued from page 1)

"On the list, there are 409 members of the various PLO cadres around the Arab World and 86 are members of the Palestine Central Council," a liaison body between the PLO's executive and legislative branches. Mr. Khatib said.

Also to be repatriated, he said, is Mohammad Zuhdi Nashashibi, who was recently appointed minister of finance in the self-rule authority that will run the affairs of the Gaza Strip and Jericho.

Mr. Khatib told the Associated Press that Mr.

Nashashibi would cross the King Hussein Bridge on Sunday, but "the time of departure of the rest is not yet fixed."

Khalid Mismar, a spokesman for the PLO mission in Amman, said of the 495 Palestinian returnees, 40 come from the Popular and Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, which oppose the landmark accord signed by the PLO and Israel last September.

The Democratic and Popular fronts contend that the accord falls short of achieving Palestinian aspirations for an